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NO. 7545 SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1989 RAMADAN 25, 1409 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Manila bill Wife rapists face penalty

MANILA, April 29, (AP): A bill filed by the vice-president of the Philippine Senate would open the way for wives to charge their husbands with rape.

Wives can refuse to have sex with their husbands if they have AIDS or any venereal disease, have been convicted of bigamy, have abandoned them for over a year or when special circumstances exist, according to the bill filed yesterday by Senate Vice-President Teofisto Guingona.

NEWSWATCH

Indian missile

BHUBANESHWAR, India, April 29, (Reuters): India will try again on Monday to test launch its first long-range missile.

The first attempt to launch the 75-tonne Agni (fire) into the Bay of Bengal from the coast of east Orissa state was called off on April 20 just seven seconds before the scheduled launch.

Rocket launched

BRASILIA, April 29, (Reuters): Brazil, which aims to put a satellite in orbit by 1992, launched a rocket yesterday which reached a height of 570 km (350 miles), the Air Force Ministry said.

PIA strike

ISLAMABAD, April 29, (KUNA): A six-member special committee of the Pakistan International Airlines yesterday started scrutiny of the 18 demands of its 400 pilots who are on a partial strike since April 20 for higher wages and better working conditions.

Chemical spill

LONDON, April 29, (Reuters): A poison gas cloud floated over parts of west London after a chemical spill yesterday and police said 28 people overcame by buses were taken to hospital.

About 1,000 people were evacuated after solvent burst out of containers which fell off a fork-lift truck on an industrial estate.

Cold fusion

NEW YORK, April 29, (AP): A new experiment confirms observations from the controversial cold fusion research announced last month, giving "very encouraging" evidence of fusion, a scientist says.

Jet lost wing slat

LONDON, April 29, (AP): A Trans World Airlines Boeing 747 flying from Los Angeles to London with more than 200 people on board lost part of a wing slat as it prepared to land at Heathrow airport on April 29, the airline said yesterday.

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US deflags six Kuwaiti tankers Five vessels to fly Stars and Stripes till February

BAHRAIN, April 29, (AP): The United States and Kuwait have agreed to remove the American flag from six Kuwaiti-owned oil tankers that sailed under US protection during the Iraq-Iran war in the Gulf, officials said yesterday.

Sources said the US Maritime Administration in Washington had approved the move and only a few technical details remained to be completed.

Walker Oates, a spokesman for the US Maritime Administration said he could not comment on the discussions or details of an agreement, other than that it was to have become effective as of Thursday. Kuwaiti officials were not available to comment.

The six ships include two petroleum product tankers, the 294,739-ton Townsend and 290,095-ton Middletown, and four identical liquefied gas

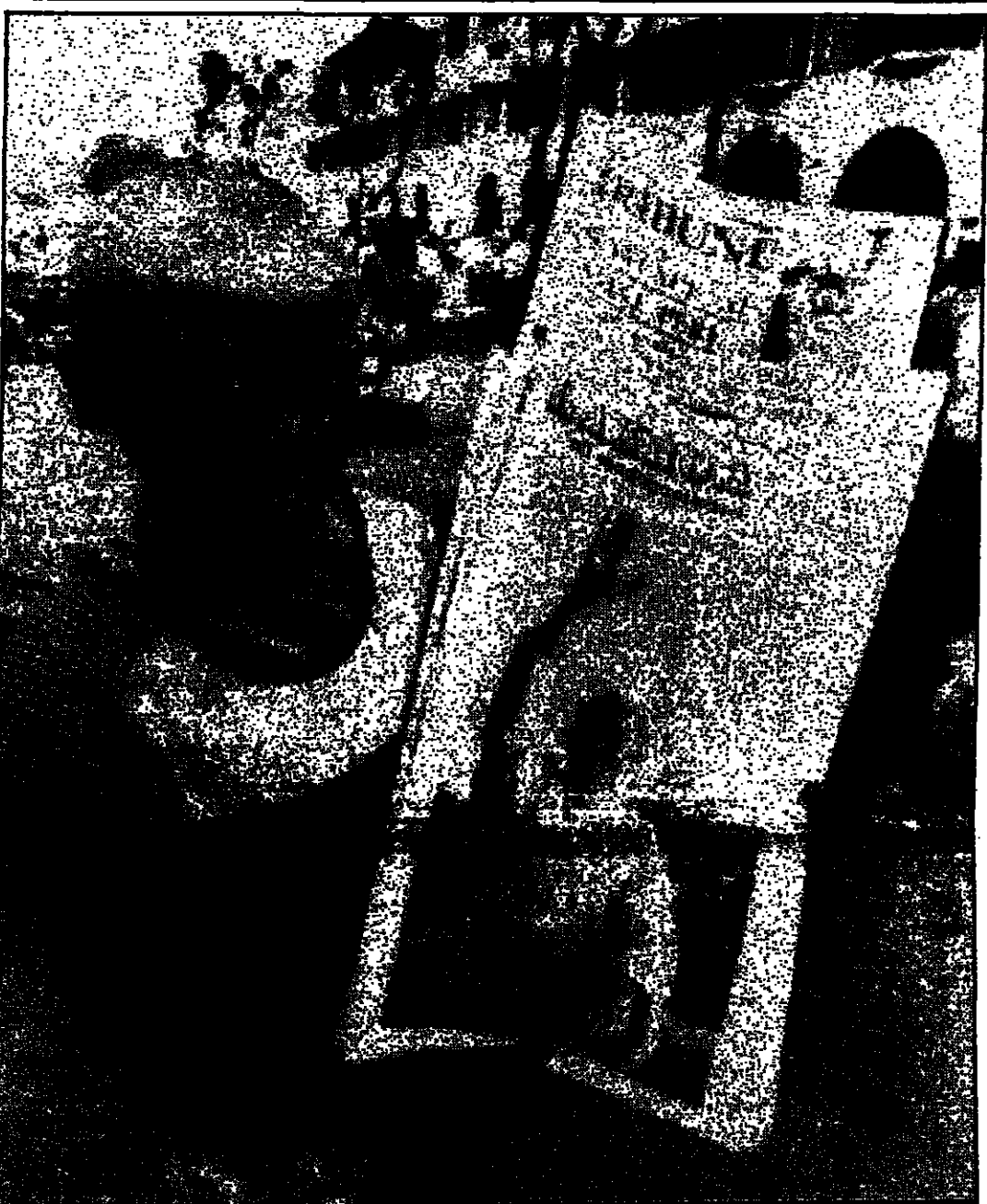
carriers of 46,723 tons. They were among 11 Kuwaiti-owned tankers reflagged by the United States in mid-1987, entitling them to US naval escort.

Iran at that time was attacking Kuwait's shipping because of its support for Iraq in the Gulf war, then in its seventh year. Hostilities ended last Aug 20.

At the time of the reflagging, Kuwait set up a new company, The Chesapeake Shipping Co.,

of Dover, Del., under the latest decision. Chesapeake will "sell" the six ships back to Kuwait, although the transaction will be only on paper, sources said.

Under a previously announced agreement, the other five tankers will continue to fly the Stars and Stripes, at least until next February, on condition that their regular crews are replaced by all-American crews during that period.



Shortage of food

Tornado toll 1,040; rains add to misery

DHAKA, April 29, (Agencies): Heavy rains hampered rescue operations today and added to the misery of the homeless survivors of a tornado that killed at least 1,040 people in central Bangladesh and has left thousands of others missing, officials said.

Storms lashed two new areas of the stricken country today, leaving three more dead and 50 others wounded.

Survivors said the tornado lasted only six minutes but sliced a 60 square mile (150 sq km) swath through 20 densely populated villages.

Officials reported 1,042 deaths today from across the devastated area and said that 498 corpses were buried yesterday without coffins or covering cloth in a mass grave set amid the totally destroyed village of Hergoz.

Hospital sources in Manikganj, the district hardest hit by the tornado's destructive wing, said they have run out of bandages, medicines and blood.

Officials reported 200 people died aboard a ferry boat that capsized during storms spawned by the tornado, which came after millions of Muslims prayed for rain in accordance with an appeal by President Muhammad Hussain Ershad.

Those who survived the tornado now face critical shortages of food and medicine, officials said today.

The government has asked for blood donations and set up makeshift camps to provide immediate relief to the injured, authorities said.

As relief operations continued, the stench of decomposing bodies filled the affected areas. The delay in government relief supplies has caused resentment among survivors against the government, Red Crescent officials said.

Officials at the Relief Ministry said they have rushed 90 tons of relief material to the victims. The government planned to send more supplies of rice, medicines, biscuits and other foodstuff and clothes for survivors.

See Life is difficult
Page 2



Botched

The US space agency has dispatched troubleshooters to pinpoint quickly the cause of technical problems that prevented the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis in the final seconds of its countdown.

Mission specialist Mary L. Cleave, the first US woman astronaut since the Challenger disaster, waves as she and fellow mission specialist Mark Lee, leave the crew quarters, in Cape Canaveral. (Reuters wirephoto)

No quick solution: Crown Prince

Respond to peace efforts, Lebanese urged

KUWAIT, April 29, (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, which has been leading an Arab mediation effort on Lebanon, has said there is no quick solution to Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

"The tragic events the country has witnessed since 1975 cannot be ended overnight or within weeks," Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah told reporters yesterday.

Sheikh Saad's remarks came soon after Arab foreign ministers agreed on a solution to the Lebanese crisis that stipulated a ceasefire, an end to all blockades, the reopening of all crossing points between the Christian East and Muslim West, and the dispatch of an Arab League observer force to the divided nation.

Beirut differences

Ceasefire violated

BEIRUT, April 29, (AP): Syrian and allied Druze gunners today lobbed several shells into Lebanon's Christian enclave, threatening to shatter Friday's Arab League-sponsored truce.

Police said no casualties were reported from the sporadic shelling. A police spokesman said six howitzer shells slammed into the enclave's coastal strip north of Beirut over a five-hour period.

There was no response from Army commander Gen. Michel Aoun's Christian gunners.

The spokesman said the intermittent shelling underscored continuing differences over terms of the ceasefire that took effect yesterday.

The PLO representative in Lebanon escaped an assassination attempt today at a refugee camp near Sidon.

New labour law won't be reviewed

Ban on dependent visas stays

THERE is no intention to review the new labour regulations in the private sector, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed has said, adding that under the new law dependent visas cannot be changed to working visas.

Reports that the ministry will carry out implementation of the new labour law on a trial basis were described by the official as "unrealistic." These regulations were studied in depth prior to their issuance and enforcement beginning March 22 this year, he said.

However, Sheikh Nasser clarified that the ministry constantly monitors the effects and implementation of the new labour law, and will not hesitate to amend any article or clause found not to fulfil the purpose it was intended for.

The minister affirmed that the new regulations are not temporary but will remain in force—especially as they comply totally with the requirements of the current stage and reflect the goals and objectives of the state. However he stressed that the law is not directed against any individuals.

"Usually, states and countries do not issue rules and regulations that go against their national interest," Sheikh Nasser said.

The minister added that the registration of unemployed Kuwaitis and GCC citizens in the labour departments in accordance with the new regulations is still at an early stage of implementation. Explaining the procedures in which this clause will be enforced, the official said that the ministry will not compel any businessman to employ a

Kuwaiti or a GCC citizen at a salary that the employer is not willing to pay.

Basically, the ministry will ask business establishments needing workers to recommend the salaries they intend to offer, and to provide these job opportunities to Kuwaitis. If the employees agree to the terms and conditions of the employer, preference for employment will be given to this category.

DAY BY DAY

A KUWAITI citizen has said he does not want to know the exact number of investors or indebted persons who are involved in the settlement scheme, as some say they are numerous and others claim they are few—each according to his wishes.

But, the citizen adds, I want to say that these funds which were given as loans to those people are not their property, but the property of banks, which in turn is the property of depositors.

Thus, any solution should protect the depositors and not the indebted investors—who may be few or many. Those who are indebted have been facing troubles due to wrong government policies and decisions.

Protection is needed for the funds of bank creditors—not for indebted investors—except if we want to mislead decision makers.

Zahed Matar

Emergency fails to stop riots in Dakar

DAKAR, April 29, (Reuters): Hundreds of youths rampaged through the streets and attacked Mauritanian shops in Dakar today despite a state of emergency imposed to stop a wave of revenge killings.

Gangs of youths looted and burned Mauritanian businesses in the Senegalese capital after a seven-hour curfew ended at 5 am (0500 GMT).

Troops and police fired tear gas to disperse the gangs. Sporadic violence was reported even during the curfew, clamped on the city yesterday after rioters killed at least 28 Mauritanians.

The killings and looting were in retaliation for the deaths of up to 400 people in two days of anti-Senegalese violence in Mauritania. Those deaths followed attacks on Mauritanian shops in Dakar last weekend.

Both countries agreed late yesterday to swap thousands of refugees in a joint airlift.

Haj this year

Respect quotas: Saudis

NICOSIA, April 29, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has asked Muslim countries including Iran to respect quotas set for this year's haj pilgrimage to Makkah, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported today.

SPA quoted Haj Minister Abdul-Wahhab Abdul-Wasir as saying: "All Muslim countries including Iran should abide by the quota for the number of worshippers allowed from each country for the haj pilgrimage."

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb explodes

TOKYO, April 29, (UPI): A bomb exploded early today near the Imperial Palace, burning three cars and shattering the windows of nearby buildings on the birthday of the late Emperor Hirohito, police said.

A fourth car was torched in one of two other bomb blasts in the Tokyo area, police said. There were no reported casualties in any of the explosions.

Hailstorms kill 7

BEIJING, April 29, (AP): Hail and windstorms in southern China have killed at least seven people and injured 530 others this month, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

It said the storms have hit 22 counties in Guizhou province, one of China's least developed regions, and destroyed 4,750 houses and 5,000 hectares (12,330 acres) of crops.

Troops disband

BONN, April 29, (UPI): Communist East Germany yesterday disbanded its first troops and pulled back tanks at the start of a unilateral cutback of conventional forces announced last January, the official East German News Agency said. The cutback, to be completed by 1990, includes a reduction of armed forces by 10,000 troops, the dismantling of 600 tanks and the withdrawal of 50 combat aircraft.

Health problems

GENEVA, April 29, (AP): The World Health Organization warned yesterday that many countries, particularly in the Third World, will face growing health care problems because the estimated 5 million people infected with the AIDS virus are highly prone to infectious pulmonary tuberculosis.

About 8 million to 10 million people in the Third World develop clinical TB, and 3 million die each year of the disease although it is curable, said a WHO statement. It said about half of the close contacts of an infectious TB patient will become infected themselves.

Barry's job

NEW YORK, April 29, (UPI): The political troubles of Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry, and the prospect he may be forced to resign, have prompted Jesse Jackson to consider running for Barry's job in 1990, the New York Times reported today.

When asked if he is considering running for the job, Jackson replied with a simple "no comment." However, the newspaper said that numerous friends and political associates of Jackson, who spoke on the condition they would not be identified, said Jackson is seriously thinking about running.



Students at Beijing's Qinghua university find food for thought as they read posters explaining the position of the Students Autonomous Federation on dialogue with the government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese students in talks with government

BEIJING, April 29, (AP): Representatives from an independent student union calling for democracy and a free press began meeting today with Chinese government officials.

The meeting with representatives from the state council, China's cabinet, and the All China Youth Association began shortly after 2 pm (0500 GMT) in central Beijing.

About 20 student leaders from the United Association of Beijing universities, an independent student group leading the protests, took part in the first official contact between students and the government since pro-democracy demonstrations began 13 days ago.

Wu'er Kaixi, the president of the student group, said, "we are all here as individuals. We will only meet as a group when the government recognises our organisation as a legal entity."

On Thursday, after 150,000 students and supporters staged a

15-hour march through Beijing to appeal for democratic reforms, the central government said it was willing to hold talks with the students "at any time" — but through official student organisations.

After the protests began, students at 41 Beijing colleges had ousted their school-appointed student federations and set up their own committees. Each of the committees then chose representatives to the United Association of Beijing Universities.

Earlier in the week, the government declared the independent student group illegal.

The government also called on students to end their weeklong class boycott.

There have been no street rallies since Thursday, but students at major Beijing Universities continue to stay away from classes in a show of solidarity for the pro-democracy campaign.

Joint production of fighter welcomed

TOKYO, April 29, (AP): Japanese officials today welcomed a controversial agreement with the United States for joint production of Japan's next-generation FSX fighter jet.

The joint development of the aircraft will be extremely important for defence co-operation between the United States and Japan, defence agency chief Kichiro Tazawa said in the statement released today.

In Washington yesterday, President George Bush announced he would proceed with the joint production of the FSX fighter jet, but the plan drew immediate opposition in the US Congress.

The Japanese defence agency late Friday decided to give the United States a 40 per cent share of both the development

and production stages of the advanced version of the US-built F-16 by General Dynamics and Japan's Mitsubishi heavy industries. It also agreed to allow the United States to protect computer codes that help fly and control the plane.

Mitsubishi, the chief Japanese contractor in the joint project, told Kyodo news service the final agreement is not

"negative" for Japan, and that the Japanese participants expect the operation to begin toward the end of June.

A Japanese diplomat told the news agency the government was relieved by the resolution of the FSX dispute, and that Japan expects the agreement to become a "model of technology-sharing" between Tokyo and Washington.

Secretly acquiring British missiles

S.Africans ordered out

PARIS, April 29, (AP): Three South African officials implicated in secretly acquiring British Blowpipe missile parts from Northern Ireland extremists were ordered to leave France by May 2, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The official announcement did not name the three but said they were attached to the South African embassy in Paris, with partial diplomatic immunity.

Ambassador Hendrik Geldenhuys was called into the Foreign Ministry and told the officials were expelled because of "activities contrary to their status," the statement said.

A French official speaking on condition of anonymity said the three included Daniel Storm, the South African caught collecting British-made ground-to-air missile parts from three Protestant extremists of the Ulster Resistance.

Police arrested Storm on April 21, along with the three extremists and an American businessman, after an investigation by French counter-espionage agents and British secret services.

The other four were held on gun-running and conspiracy charges, police said, but Storm was released because of his quasi-diplomatic status.

Southeast Asia trip

Takeshita on tour

TOKYO, April 29, (Agencies): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, expected to resign soon over a stock scandal, left today for a nine-day trip through Southeast Asia as the Liberal Democratic Party continues the search for his successor.

Takeshita's long-planned visit is to take him to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. His first stop is Bangkok.

The prime minister, who announced on Tuesday his intention to resign, is expected to leave office sometime in May after the trip and the selection of his successor.

Takeshita had said that he would leave office once the 60 trillion-yen (\$455 billion) budget is passed. The budget was passed yesterday in the powerful lower house and now goes to the upper house for approval, but will be implemented on May 27 even if that assembly fails to pass it.



Wright poses

US House Speaker Jim Wright poses with two ring-girls prior to the international Boxing Federation welterweight fight between Simon Brown and Al Long at the D.C. Armory, the night of April 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe lining up against US, UK on missiles

BONN, April 29, (AP): West German officials contend that NATO members on the European continent are starting to line up against the United States and Britain in a major disarmament dispute within the Western alliance.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's call for superpower negotiations on reducing short-range nuclear weapons has pitted him against US President Bush and British

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher plans to meet with Kohl on Sunday in a West German village to discuss their disagreement over the issue of modernising the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's short-range nuclear weapons.

The weapons, with a range of up to 500 kilometres (300 miles), are based in West Germany

where there is growing opposition to upgrading them.

West Germany is pressuring the United States to pursue negotiations with the Soviet Union on reducing short-range nuclear weapons, and has pointed out that NATO supported such talks in 1987.

The United States and Britain are pushing, instead, to replace NATO's current short-range

weapons, with new, more modern nuclear missiles. They oppose West Germany's proposal for superpower negotiations because they fear such talks could lead to the elimination of all short-range, or battlefield, nuclear weapons, leaving Western Europe exposed to the Warsaw Pact's superior conventional forces.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher dis-

cussed the issue yesterday with the US Ambassador Vernon Walters in Bonn. Thatcher met in London with Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, although she failed to persuade him to support the US-British position.

Most of NATO's short-range nuclear weapons are based in West Germany, where many citizens are worried they would be used exclusively on German soil in the event of a war.

Life is too difficult for landless poor

Calamities beset Bangladesh

PALASHTALA, Bangladesh, April 29, (AP): Two weeks ago, Zarina Khatoon sold her aluminium cooking pot to buy food for her four hungry children.

"The cooking pot was the last asset I could sell. My children were going without food for two days. They had nothing but water," Zarina said, wearing a ragged sari and sitting on the ground in front of her mud-and-straw house.

Her plight is common among the families of 65 million landless day labourers in this poverty-stricken nation of 110 million people. When there are no fields to tend, there is no money to earn.

Two months of drought have aggravated the situation. The rain that brought a measure of relief on Wednesday may not be enough to save the crops in the ground.

In yet another of the deadly caprices nature so often unleashes on Bangladesh, the rains were accompanied by tornadoes that killed at least 700 people. It was the latest in a series of natural calamities that have struck the nation.

Floods last summer killed more than 1,400 people, submerged four-fifths of the country and left 25 million people homeless. Barely two months after the water receded, cyclones struck in late November, claiming another 1,100 lives.

The Jamalpur district, 145 kilometres (90 miles) north of Dhaka, was ravaged by last summer's monsoon-spawned floods. Now it suffers from drought. But so far the main problem is not availability of food, relief workers say. It's the shortage of work.

The sowing season is over. For landless day labourers, there will be no more work until the rice crop now in the ground is harvested in early June — if the paddies survive the drought.

Zarina Khatoon's husband, Mokbul Ahmad, left home two weeks ago to look for work. He has not yet returned to Palashtala, 18 kilometres (12 miles) south of Jamalpur.

Shortly after he left, Zarina sold her cooking pot for 15 takas (46 cents). She promptly spent 10 takas (31 cents) on one kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of flour, which saw her family through two meals.

The 25-year-old woman said her situation had improved slightly since she found work digging a pond for 15 takas a day.

"Still, I cannot buy rice for my family," she said. "Rice is out of my reach."

Two weeks ago, rice, the staple of the Bangladeshi diet, sold for 20 takas (62 cents) a kilogramme (28 cents a pound). The government pumped some reserve stocks into the area, and the price fell a little — to 18 takas (56 cents) a kilogramme (25 cents a pound).

"It's not the question of availability of rice. The problem is the poor people have no money to buy food. They have no jobs," said Fakhrul Ahsan, a local worker for the privately run Bangladesh Rural Development Committee.

He said the committee is working with 56,000 people living in 47 villages in the Jamalpur region, doing post-flood rehabilitation work and trying to provide jobs such as building roads and making handicrafts.

"Almost 30 per cent of the people we cover are living in extreme conditions," Ahsan said. "They take flour and boil it with water. They can't make bread from wheat as that fails to feed all the members of the family."

"We have no report of anyone dying for lack of food, but the situation is pretty bad," said Debarbra Das, another worker from the Bangladesh Rural Development Committee.

Abdul Hamid, who lives in Narayanpur near Palashtala, said he earned 15 takas a day working for wealthy farmers.

"The money I earn cannot buy rice for me and my family," the 35-year-old father of three said. "Rice has become a luxury item for us."

Bangladesh, where the per capita income is \$160, needs 18 million tons of rice a year to feed its people. In good years, it produces 17 million tons. It tries to import a additional two million tons to cover the shortfall and provide an emergency reserve.

Last year, the floods wiped out 2.5 million tons that were in the fields and paddies when the deluge struck.

The spring rice crop now in the ground was expected to produce about 5.6 million tons, but agriculture officials in Dhaka fear at least half will be lost to the drought.

Namibian peace plan failed

Pretoria ends truce

CAPE TOWN, April 29, (Reuters): South Africa ordered its troops in Namibia to resume operations against SWAPO guerrillas from dawn today after negotiators failed to push forward an international peace plan for the territory.

"There will be no ceasefire from today," South African director general of foreign affairs Neil van Heerden told Reuters. But he said troops would be urged to show restraint.

Pretoria confined its troops to their bases for 60 hours on Wednesday to allow nationalist rebels to withdraw unhindered to Angola.

But South African officials said the truce would not be extended an up to 4,500 troops would be mobilised against South West Africa People's Organisation rebels still in Namibia. South Africa says 40 guerrillas remain in the territory.

Asked what would happen if the troops came across SWAPO fighters, Van Heerden said: "Then there will be shooting."

Cuba, Angola and South Africa failed to restart an international plan for UN-supervised Namibian independence during two days of talks that ended in Cape Town.

Their joint commission monitoring the peace plan scheduled further meeting in Angola on May 15 to assess the progress of withdrawal from Namibia by SWAPO guerrillas.

Security forces kill 77 rebels in Peru battles

LIMA, April 29, (AP): Security forces have killed 77 leftist guerrillas in two separate battles in the Andes mountains and the jungle in the heaviest day of fighting in Peru's nine-year insurgency, the government said.

Six soldiers and three university students also were killed yesterday in rebel violence, bringing the day's death toll to 86, officials said.

President Alan Garcia said in a brief radio statement that 62 rebels slain in the first battle were members of a pro-Cuban group called the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, one of the two rebel bands fighting to overthrow Peru's government.

The government also said that police near Santa Rosa, a village in Peru's cocaine-producing jungle, located 260 miles (440 kilometres) northeast of Lima,

killed 15 Shining Path guerrilla in fighting there yesterday.

The Shining Path is Peru's largest rebel group. It has been fighting since 1980 to topple the government and impose a Chinese-style communism on this South American nation.

The government said drug traffickers supported the Shining Path rebels in the clash, but did not provide further details.

Fridays battles resulted in the largest number of guerrilla deaths in any single day of fighting since the rebellion began nine years ago. Nearly 1,000 people have been killed so far this year in political violence.

Government officials also said yesterday that more than 6,000 people were detained in Lima during sweeps by police searching for the killers of leftist congressman Eriberto Arroyo.

Discover gold

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

هناك اموال

Bank gets cocaine and cheque

HOUSTON, April 29, (UPI): A man trying to cash a check saw his freedom go down the tube when he inadvertently included a packet of cocaine with a cheque at a drive-in bank.

Police said Wilson Hayes, 42, overrode his luck when the packet went down the pneumatic tube along with his check and driver's licence. A Texas commerce bank teller noticed the white powdery substance and called officers.

Ball's family to gather

LOS ANGELES, April 29, (AP): Lucille Ball's family will gather to remember her, but there will be no funeral, a spokesman said yesterday.

"It isn't going to be a formal service, as such. What is going on is totally private, with the family, and I don't know when or where," said Tom Watson at Lucille Ball Enterprises.

Contacting Harry Houdini

MARSHALL, Michigan, April 29, (UPI): The curator of the American Museum of Magic has a new plan for contacting the spirit of Harry Houdini. For the first time, he's going to enlist the help of Houdini's late wife, Beatrice.

Robert Lund conceded his chances of contacting either of the Houdinis are slim, but said there's no harm in trying.

Vice squad detective acquitted

PARIS, April 29, (Reuters): A young vice squad detective at the centre of a bitter row between France's judiciary and police force was acquitted yesterday of pimping and corruption.

Yves Jobic was freed by a criminal court on the outskirts of Paris after the public prosecutor acknowledged there was no case for the 31-year-old police officer to answer.

James Brown signs autograph

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, April 29, (AP): A judge permitted soul singer James Brown, who is serving a six-year prison term, to leave jail to sign autographs at a courthouse, much to the dismay of corrections officials.

"Somebody asked me if I could get him up here to get his autograph and I said I would try," circuit Judge Frank Epps said after Thursday's signing session.

Hotline for homework

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey, April 29, (AP): Students having trouble with homework can call a telephone "Hotline" to plug into a teacher ready to help.

The Jersey City school district started the service a year ago.

"I felt it was something that would be a benefit, especially because we have so many latchkey children who don't have parents who can help them when they come home," said Elaine White, the hotline's founder and the district's affirmative action officer.

The hotline handles queries from students in the third through sixth grades.

"Mathematics is the No. 1 question, and it usually is math computations," Ms White said. "A lot of it has to do with times (multiplication) tables and what you're doing to get the answer."

Stomped to death

RINGGOLD, Pennsylvania, April 29, (AP): A dairy farm worker was stomped to death by a 1,600-pound (726-kg) bull that he was trying to guide into a barn, police said.

Donald Paul Shaffer, 59, was trying to herd cattle from a pasture back into a barn at the Skyline dairy when the Holstein bull knocked him to the ground Tuesday, police said.

Coroner Christopher Burkett listed the preliminary cause of death as multiple head and chest trauma. The bull was destroyed by its owners.

Too cramped for her hats

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, April 29, (AP): Sweden's Royal couple will get a new airplane after Queen Silvia complained their old one was too cramped for her hats and lacked adequate mirrors to fix her make-up.

King Carl XVI Gustaf ordered a Swedish-built Saab 340 B, outfitted with a telephone, telex and a spacious wardrobe, palace spokeswoman Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg said Monday.

The Queen refused to fly anymore in the old royal plane, a fairchild Metro III, Tarras-Wahlberg said.

Dispersants didn't work

Alaska governor raps Exxon 'PR' campaign

VALDEZ, Alaska, April 29, (UPI): Alaska's governor yesterday accused Exxon of launching a public relations campaign to shift blame for America's biggest oil spill away from the giant oil company and onto state and US officials.

"This is a public relations effort," said an angry Governor Steve Cowper at a news conference in Juneau, the state capital.

"Exxon is trying to give the state a black eye. I suppose PR (public relations) firms are telling Exxon what to say, but we're hearing the same false statements time and time again."

On Capitol Hill and in press briefings, top Exxon officials have insisted they were prevented from moving quickly with chemical dispersants to break up the 10.9-million-gallon spill by the US coast guard and the State Department of environmental conservation.

In a letter to Cowper released by Exxon in New York, company chairman Lawrence Rawl noted there have been disputes over the need for testing the dispersants, their potential toxic aftermath, the amount on hand and the amount needed to deal with the oil spill.

"It's regrettable that you have chosen to go public on this matter without first discussing these questions directly with us," Rawl said.

Cowper said Exxon had authorized to spray chemical dispersants after the Exxon Valdez straggled March 24 but suggested at the time dispersants would be ineffective — and when Exxon finally did use them, they didn't work.

"It's worth noting that Exxon never had sufficient quantities of dispersant on hand to treat a spill of this size," Cowper said, noting that use of dispersants on the spill was preapproved.

Only after Exxon had trouble hitting the target — and instead sprayed the tanker and Coast Guard personnel — did the state decline to approve the use of chemicals in the most sensitive areas," Cowper said.

The Exxon Valdez, still leaking oil emulsion, is currently undergoing repairs 30 miles (40 km) from the original spill site.

Skimmers reported collecting 752 barrels Thursday and shoreline cleanup crews reported scouring 300 feet (100 m) of blackened Smith island.

The giant Soviet skimmer Vaydaghursky, costing Exxon \$15,000 daily, scooped up only 23 barrels before its suction unit clogged.

In Washington, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney ordered the Navy dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry to leave its homeport of San Diego yesterday to head to Valdez to serve as a second floating hotel for workers.



Swimming Lucy

Lucy, a female bottlenose dolphin, swims alongside her mother Stormy at Marien World USA. The baby dolphin, born April 26 and named after comedienne Lucille Ball, weighs about 10 kgs. (Reuter wirephoto).



Soccer thug

British soccer fan Alan Woodray arrives at Brussels Courthouse. Fifteen Britons, accused of manslaughter in the 1985 Heysel stadium disaster, returned to Brussels to hear the verdict. Fourteen were jailed. (Reuter wirephoto). See Heysel verdict on Page 16



Love for dog

US First Lady Barbara Bush gives puppy Rangerette, a kiss at the White House. (Reuter wirephoto)

Heinz to introduce tamper-proof jars

Baby food stocks in UK will be destroyed

LONDON, April 29, (AP): As national anxiety about contaminated baby food grew, the Heinz company said yesterday it would destroy its stocks in British shops and replace them with food in tamper-proof jars to deter extortioners.

Baby food removed from stores would be replaced in two to three weeks by jars enclosed in a heat-sealed plastic sleeve, said the company, which sells 170 million jars of baby food a year in Britain.

Police are investigating nearly 300 reports of contaminated baby food. They said two apparently were the work of one man demanding up to £1 million (\$1.7 million) from Heinz.

Detectives at Scotland Yard police headquarters said they believe the most of the tampering incidents involved "copycats, people getting on the bandwagon, cranks and some cases of self-contamination."

Several arrests have been reported in connection with hoaxes, Scotland Yard said.

Matthew Cookson, 14 months old, was the latest casualty of the potentially deadly campaign. He was hospitalized in Manchester with glass in his stomach from a jar of baby's yoghurt after his mother saw pieces of glass in the food, said the child's grandfather, Ronald Cookson.

"The risk to Matthew from the glass is minimal. We are waiting for nature to take its course," said Dr Alan Dickson, a paediatrician at Booths Hall Hospital.

In three earlier cases, two women cut their fingers on glass in baby food and a nine-month-old girl cut her mouth when she bit on a piece of razor blade in



Cookson, the latest victim, being cuddled by a nurse. (Reuter wirephoto)

yoghurt.

Ted Smyth, director of corporate affairs at Heinz's headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, flew to London on Thursday night. He said, "we will never pay the blackmailers," when asked about British news reports that some unidentified companies had handed over a total of £500,000 (\$850,000) to extortioners. The reports have not been confirmed.

Smyth pledged his company will do everything possible to catch those responsible.

Cow and Gate Ltd., a baby food manufacturer owned by Nutricia of the Netherlands, said it had received no demands. Most of the objects were found in Heinz or Cow and Gate products but several were in other brands of baby food. Cow and Gate shares 80 per cent of the British market with Heinz.

US planning advanced supersonic jetliner

US planning advanced supersonic jetliner

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, April 29, (UPI): Two aircraftmakers say an advanced US supersonic jetliner capable of carrying 300 people at more than 2,100 miles (3,300 kilometres) per hour could be flying by the year 2000.

Experts from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas told an aviation writers conference in Scottsdale Thursday that the new jet could fly 700 miles (1,100 kilometres) per hour faster than the British-French Concorde SST, carry three times as many passengers and fly nearly twice as far without stopping.

The companies have been awarded \$4.5 million in NASA contracts to determine the market potential of such high-speed airliners and the technology required to build them.

To be economically viable, the new jet would have to be able to use today's airports, fly 7,500 miles (12,000-kilometre) non-stop and be "environmentally acceptable," said Don Graf, advanced technology manager for McDonnell Douglas.

Its sonic boom must not annoy people on the ground, its engine noise must not be excessive and its exhaust must not cause any significant depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer, he said.

"We still don't know how to fly such a plane supersonically over land without creating a sonic boom," Graf said. "And if we can't fly it over land supersonically, it may not be economically feasible to fly it."

Such a plane could make a trans-Pacific trip in about five hours, one-third the nearly 15 hours required by a subsonic jetliner, he said.

Graf estimated development cost at about \$15 billion for such a jetliner able to fly at 3.2 times the speed of sound.

Malcolm Mackinnon of Boeing told the conference a somewhat slower supersonic airliner, flying at 2.4 times the speed of sound, or about 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres) per hour, appears the most promising at this time.

Lawmakers also discussed a proposal by the left-wing opposition that would legalise euthanasia if performed on seriously ill patients at their own request.

The two euthanasia bills now before the 150-seat parliament are the latest stage in a public

Judge denies bail to park hooligans

Charges of racism

NEW YORK, April 29, (UPI): Four youths accused in the Central Park attack on a woman jogger that a prosecutor called "the most vicious and brutal assault" in city history were denied bail yesterday in court sessions that exploded with charges of racism.

The bail hearing for Michael Briscoe, 17, was interrupted when black activist attorney Alton Maddox Jr. violated an agreement that he remain silent while Briscoe's attorney, Joseph Mack, spoke to state supreme court justice Carol Berkman.

When he persisted in trying to speak, the judge ordered Maddox to join the spectators behind the courtroom rail.

At the bail hearing, assistant Manhattan district attorney Elizabeth Lederer urged the judge to deny bail.

"This is the most vicious and brutal assault that has occurred in New York City to date," Lederer said. "They left a trail of ruin, assault and injury."

Lederer said the moving pack of teens "started at one end of the park, hurling bottles and rocks and victimised almost everyone they saw."

"As a result of their rampage, a 28-year-old woman is lying unconscious in Metropolitan Hospital. She was raped, sodomised, brutally beaten and

then left bleeding for hours in the thickest woods."

In her impassioned plea for no bail, Lederer recounted the woman's struggle for help in the dark woods off a running path in the moonlit park.

The jogger, a Wall Street investment banker whose name is being withheld because she is a rape victim, remained in critical condition in a coma for an eighth day at Metropolitan Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Sylvia Reyes.

Later in the day, prosecutors revealed a grand jury indictment had been returned against one of the alleged attackers, Kevin Richardson, 14. He is the sixth to be indicted for the attack on the woman and the only one who admitted raping her, according to a police complaint.

Richardson was indicted on 13 felony charges, including attempted murder, rape and sexual assault.

The grand jury returned indictments Thursday against Kharey Wise, 16, Antron McCray, 15, and Steve Lopez, also 15, who were charged with rape, attempted murder, sodomy, sexual abuse and assault. Two other teens — Raymond Santana, 14, and Yusef Salaam, 15 — were indicted in the rape earlier this week.

Doctors are accomplices

Prisoners tortured widely

GENEVA, April 29, (Reuters): Torture is used against prisoners in more than 60 countries and doctors are accomplices in a large majority of cases, a United Nations expert said yesterday.

Danish Professor Bent Sorensen said the doctors' role was to ensure that victims survived the torture to serve as a warning to political or other opponents of ruling authorities.

Sorensen, professor of surgery at Copenhagen University and head of a rehabilitation centre for victims in the city, was in Geneva for a meeting of the UN committee against torture.

Sorensen said that in the past torture was used simply to obtain information, but now its aim was to destroy a victim's spirit and to send him back to society as a broken person.

"The presence of doctors is necessary during torture to see to it that the torture stops before the person dies," Sorensen told a news conference.

Doctors generally aren't prosecuted if they consult extensively with other practitioners and patients' relatives before deciding to honour a euthanasia request. They also must advise their patients of the treatment and pain relief still available in each case.

Both requirements are included in the two bills now before parliament.

Venus is a cosmic wasteland

Victim of greenhouse effect

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April 29, (UPI): Venus appears to be the victim of a runaway "greenhouse effect" — a cosmic wasteland where clouds of acid smother mountains and valleys broiled by 900° F (482° C) surface temperatures.

The Magellan robot spacecraft will generate volumes of data about earth's nearest planetary neighbour by bouncing radar pulses through the mysterious planet's perennial cloud cover.

The first attempt to launch Magellan from the shuttle Atlantis was delayed by technical problems that grounded the spaceplane yesterday.

"We sit on a planet that is blessed with oxygen and trees and water and people and animals and sometimes take it for granted," Rear Adm. Richard Truly, nominated to serve as the next NASA adminis-

trator, said in an interview. "Venus is about the same size as earth, it gets about the same sunlight... and yet it's a planet that has an atmosphere (where) it rains sulphuric acid," the former astronaut said. "It's just awful, and we don't understand it."

Venus orbits the sun at a distance of 67.2 million miles (108 million km), completing one orbit in 224 days. Earth, located roughly 93 million miles (150 million km) from the sun, takes 365 days to complete one orbit.

Venus rotates on its axis once every 243 days, turning from west to east instead of east to west, and even though it is thought to have a nickel-iron core, Venus does not have a magnetic field like earth's.

Call to save ozone layer

HELSINKI, April 29, (Reuters): Experts from nearly 70 countries have urged governments to strengthen an international pact to save the earth's disappearing ozone layer, a senior UN official said yesterday.

Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said the experts want signatories of the 1987 Montreal protocol on chemicals which destroy ozone to take tougher action when they meet in Helsinki next week.

"The signal goes to the Montreal protocol parties inviting them clearly to strengthen the teeth of the protocol," Tolba told a news conference after a UN meeting held under the Vienna convention for the protection of the ozone layer.

Ozone protects the earth from cancer-causing solar rays and helps regulate the climate. Chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) found in refrigerators, air-conditioning and some aerosol sprays destroy it and increase the risk of cancer and global warming, known as the "greenhouse effect."

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KUWAIT ... GULF

1.5 million fingerprints to be computerised

Effort to solve crimes faster

By Sayed Othman

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Criminal Evidence Department, Col. Saud Al Barjes announced that the department is planning to store over 1.5 million fingerprints collected in the country so far, in the computer. He said that this project will be implemented shortly. He added that the department is still going ahead with the project of taking the fingerprints of all persons over 17 years of age.

Col. Barjes announced that the department has acquired advanced equipment to help solve crimes and arrest criminals. The use of the computer will enable recalling fingerprints when required in a few minutes. Among the new equipment acquired by the department is a new gas chromatograph for chemical analysis and a computer synchronizer that is capable of detecting and analysing the smallest traces which can be picked up from crime sites, in addition to the use of infra red equipment.

Col. Barjes said that this enables the department to check exactly the validity of the criminals and their confessions. Barjes announced that a technical committee was set up at the Interior Ministry to decide upon the system to be adopted for fingerprints storing. He said that the committee will decide before the end of this month. The committee will submit its recommendations to the officials in the ministry who will take the final decision. He added that storing fingerprints in the computer will facilitate unveiling many strange cases. He also added that this will facilitate the issuance of "good conduct certificates" in a very short time to citizens and expatriates.

Col. Barjes said that the department has been trying to attract young qualified Kuwaitis to work in its various sections and announced in the local press many times that it would provide attractive salaries and good incentives to them. He said that the department already has well trained officers in the field of crime detection, and further added that the department is planning to send new groups of officers abroad to train in the field.

Guards injured in clash with smugglers

By Salem Al Wawan

TWO security Kuwaiti border guards were injured and an Iraqi smuggler was killed during a clash. According to sources, the smuggler has been reported to be a member of a gang which was trying to smuggle 102 cases of whisky into Kuwait. During the smuggling operations, the smugglers clashed with the police.

Border guards from Al Ein Al Malha and Shamali posts chased the smugglers who were in two cars carrying fake licence plates. There were altogether five smugglers.

During the chase, the smugglers opened gunfire with Kalashnikov rifles on the security personnel, who were being led by Sheikh Fahd Al Sabah from the Shamali post and Nawaf Abu Shaiba from Al Ein Al Malha post.

The chase ended with the arrest of the smugglers and the death of the smuggler. Two of the gang members were also injured during the chase and have been admitted to the Jahra Hospital. The rest of the gang have been remanded to police custody. The injured security personnel have been identified as Mohammed Hazza and Farhan Frahi.



Hazza: injured

NEWS IN BRIEF

Traffic control

A LOCAL daily has reported that the computerised/traffic control systems for various parts of Kuwait would soon be invited in a public tender.

The daily, quoting official sources, said that this giant project would cost KD20 million, and that it would link the various traffic lights to a central computerised control system at the General Traffic Department. The source also said that this project is part of the department's efforts to sort out existing traffic problems and enable better handling of traffic flow during official ceremonies.

The source added that the new system would also link the different official carparks in the country, and that special electronic panels would be mounted at the entrance of each carpark to indicate the number of empty stalls available and act as a standby power supply feeder in time of emergencies.

Suggestion boxes

The director of Public Relations and Information at the General Department of Civil Aviation Bader Issa Al Matar has said that special boxes have been mounted, where complaints and suggestions would be received.

He said that this gesture was prompted by the department's concern to continually develop and support public interest, and that complaints and suggestions, if any, were invited all year round.

He added that the Citizen's Office was operating round-the-clock on a shift basis and that special manuals and fliers would soon be published with information essential to passengers.

Kiss and jail

A KISS on the cheek of a prisoner lady cost a policeman five years in jail. The criminal court accused the policeman of attempting to sexually assault the woman. Mohammad, the accused, was on patrol duty outside the police station. After arriving, he went to the toilet and on his way out saw the woman in one of the cells. He opened the door and kissed her. The woman was saved by a sergeant, who heard noises and came to order the policeman out. In the court, the policeman denied kissing her and claimed that his nose collided with her face, after opening the door as he didn't know she was inside. But the woman insisted that he kissed her intentionally on the cheek.

Pakistan embassy

THE embassy of Pakistan will remain closed on Monday May 1, on account of May Day. It will re-open on Tuesday May 2, 1989.

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Deterrent school laws imperative: Sharrah

Parents should control children

ASSAULTS by students on teachers should be viewed with grave concern as it tends to retard the educational process and runs counter to the very fabric that education represents.

In an interview with a local magazine, Dr Yaqoub Al Sharrah, Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs said that it is now imperative that deterrent laws be enacted to curb such incidents. School administrations should draw up the necessary framework to enact such laws, he added.

Teachers should be professionally oriented and avoid any personal involvement with their students while maintaining the teacher and student status quo. Parents should play an active role in the development of their children's behaviour patterns, Sharrah said.

The official called for providing teachers with better pay scales to enable this section of the community to meet the increasing cost of living. This lack of appreciation by the authorities for the status of teachers is the primary reason Kuwaiti youth refrain from joining this field.

Sharrah said that his department is currently involved in setting up the schemes for the academic year 1989/1990 — particularly towards the new schools which are expected to open commencing with the new academic year.

Studies are being undertaken to bring about a balance in the number of students in each school. Owners of schools with a high density of students will be asked to build more schools, or enlarge existing facilities.

A joint committee from Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Education will undertake inspection of the new schools. The private education department is studying the quality of premises and the role of the training process at private institutes. It is also studying the role of the local cultural bureaus towards the registration and admission processes in universities and following up of students studying abroad, Sharrah said.

There are 83 Arab private schools in Kuwait in addition to 34 foreign schools. The anticipated increase in the students for the academic year 1989/1990 in the local Arab schools is 12 per cent while increase in foreign students is 4 per cent. The number of the teaching staff in the Arab private schools was estimated at 4,414 teachers while the number of teaching staff in the local foreign schools was estimated at 1954, Sharrah was quoted as saying.

Replying to a question over the department's attitude towards the schools manipulating personnel salaries, Sharrah said that the Ministry of Education represented by the Private Education Department maintains a technical, administrative and financial supervision of private schools.

He confirmed the department's readiness to hear any complaint by any teacher. The ministry would not permit any reduction in teachers salaries.

The official has denied rumours that some private schools had failed to impart required educational standards, but he confirmed that there is a disparity in the educational level among private schools. This could be attributed to several factors including the students capabilities and the social and environmental factors.

Letters of guarantee not acceptable

Power failure main cause of phone break

DISRUPTION of telephone services at Shuwaikh Central on April 13 has been attributed to the power failure in Kuwait on that date, coupled with the fact that batteries usually used in case of emergency were under maintenance on the same day.

Abdulla Al Sharhan, the minister of communications, has taken the necessary measures to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future. No other facility among the several that the ministry owns was affected apart from Shuwaikh Central. Sharhan added: "There is no need for an investigative committee as the reason for the failure has been determined."

The ministry has stopped accepting letters of guarantee from private companies for telephone services given to their employees because some of these companies are bankrupt. In such cases, employees leave the country without paying their dues and the company refuses to honour their obligations.

However, the ministry has exempted expatriate subscribers working in the private sector from paying the KD500 guarantee if they do not opt for the direct overseas calls service. They are only called upon to pay the annual subscription fee of KD30.

Sharhan said the ministry plans to build new centrals, such as Qurain Central with a capacity of 20,000 lines, and West Fintas Central with an identical capacity. The ministry is also working to expand the present centrals. An additional 20,000 lines will be added to Rigga Central and 10,000 lines to Farwaniya Central. The higher ministry

committee has agreed to offer new services for telephone subscribers, such as quick dialling for overseas calls. The service will allow subscribers to use a short code instead of long numbers for international calls. The code will be one or two digits only, Sharhan said.

The committee has also agreed to offer a new service called "No disturbance" service, which means no calls will be received while the subscriber is resting. The telephone will give a busy signal during this service.

The ministry will also offer "absent subscriber service" which records telephone numbers of persons who telephone when the subscriber is out of Kuwait. The ministry agreed to offer the service of controlling overseas calls by using a secret code known only to the subscriber. These services will be carried out as an experiment in Shuwaikh and Kuwait City, then generalise to other areas if experiment proves a success, Sharhan said.

Solutions to problems of the 101 service have been recommended by the ministers and a telephone guide will be issued shortly to help solve the problem. Sharhan added. He appealed to subscribers to refer to the guide and not to call 101 service for information. The ministry also plans to distribute this service over the five governorates of Kuwait in order to reduce pressure on the main centre. The ministry is now evaluating the technical and financial issues of this project, Sharhan said.

In a related development, Ministry of Communications Undersecretary Abdulaziz Al

Ayoub was quoted as saying that the ministry had decided to create a new department to deal with the public.

In an interview with a local daily, the undersecretary said that the new department will handle all the complaints of subscribers. An experiment of such service has been conducted at Salmiya telephone exchange and has proved a success. The ministry has therefore decided to extend it to cover all the ministry's telephone exchanges. The new system will be operational within 22 months.

A new committee has been formed for this purpose under the chairmanship of Assistant Undersecretary for Subscribers Services Affairs Khaled Al Houdh, in addition to a working team which will co-ordinate its works with the committee and the technical bureau affiliated to the ministry's office.

The new department, which will have branches at each telephone exchange in the country, shall receive all subscriber complaints regarding telephone, telex and fax services, as well as any others rendered by each exchange.

Another service to be incorporated will enable the subscriber to transfer a telephone conversation to any place by using a specific code. The ministry will start this experiment with telephones connected to the Shuwaikh and Capital exchanges, as a prelude to extending it over all the country's areas.

The ministry has decided to minimise subscription fees for telex services in order to encourage the use of this service, Ayoub said.

PACI to demonstrate civil information system

THE Public Authority for Civil Information has managed for a demonstration of the civil information system in use at its office, as a display for the national team formed to sort out existing functional duplication among the various government ministries and establishments.

A local daily interviewed the leader of the team, Dr Naser Jassem Al Sane, the assistant undersecretary for administrative development at the Civil Service Commission, who expressed his deep appreciation of the massive potentials demonstrated by the authority and its systems, which are operated by

Kuwaiti citizens.

He told the newspaper that the information possessed by the authority was an important national achievement which could be utilised in various constructive channels, such as the issuance of birth certificates, ration cards, charity, housing services and others.

Sane added that civil information could come in handy for national research studies, population census and inventories of available scientific cadres.

He said the authority had contributed positively to the simplification of red-tape

procedures and to the support of the administrative development process.

Courtesy call

KUALA LUMPUR, April 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia, Essa A. Al Essa was among some 40 heads of diplomatic mission who paid a courtesy call on Malaysia's new king, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong at the National Palace (Istana Negara) here today.

Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak state was sworn in as the country's ninth king for a five-year period on Wednesday.

University student creates car control programme

ASHRAF Abdul Hafiz Al Babbli, one of the students at Kuwait University Petroleum and Engineering College renovated a computer programme that can be mounted on cars and is able to control the car speed, timing, and gasoline economy.

Speaking to a local daily, Babbli said that the programme is designed to protect VIP's inside the car and in order to avoid crowded roads. The project is divided into three stages, software, hardware and VIP protection.

Babbli started implementing his project last January. He has already completed the first stage and part of the second stage. He added that at countries where they do not have any car factories, the project could be utilised by the traffic department in order to organise traffic flow. He said that navigation companies could benefit from the project with regards to movements of ships and planes and to avoid mid air crashes.

Planning council meeting

National budget discussions

By Hussein Salameh

IT has been learnt that the Higher Planning Council will hold a meeting under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister on May 17.

The newspaper, quoting the secretary-general of the council Fuad Mulla Hussein, said that the Council would devote its forthcoming meeting to discussing the national budget for ministries and other government establishments.

He added that the discussion would be completed in two meetings and that the recommendations to be adopted would be

submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

He said the council had already received the draft budgets from various ministries, including the draft construction budget, and that the council's various committees had already begun their work in preparation for submitting a report to the council on the outcome.

He pointed out that the national development process was based on a long-term economic strategy, which had already been approved by the council and referred for final endorsement to the council of Ministers.

Kuwait exports surplus cucumber

THE managing director of Agricultural Food Products Khaled Al Rashid has said that the company has exported 15 tons of Kuwaiti cucumber to Lebanon and is preparing to export more quantities next week.

The company exported 27 tons of cucumber to Bahrain, 12 tons to Qatar, 23 tons to Oman and UAE and 25 tons to France during last month and this month. The company is also making contacts to export more cucumber to some other countries. Rashid said that the cold spell that attacked Kuwait recently damaged large quantities of tomato at Abdali and Wafra farms. The farmers planted cucumber instead which doubled the production of cucumber and caused a surplus. The farmers were affected from the collapse of prices of cucumber due to the surplus at the local market, he said.

Student stabs teacher in Jahra

SECURITY sources in Jahra have been quoted as saying that a student at the Jahra Ouyoun Secondary School stabbed his teacher with a knife.

The sources said that the student had failed to show up for the mid-term science exam and had requested the principal to offer him another chance to sit for the exam.

The teacher prepared a list of questions and gave them to the student who insisted on having the same questions of the exam be missed, and when the teacher refused to do that, the student drew out a knife and stabbed the teacher.

The teacher was rushed to the hospital by colleagues immediately which according to sources saved his life.

Tomato shortage creates sharp price increase

MANY consumers have complained of the constant increase in prices during the month of Ramadan. They said that some slight increase in prices with the beginning of Ramadan each year is normal. But this year's increase was unusual and prices continue to increase so far, despite the fact that Ramadan is almost over.

Shortage in tomatoes led to a sharp increase in its prices, in addition to the price rise witnessed for several other types of vegetables and fruits.

A local daily toured the vegetables and fruits market and interviewed a number of salesmen and buyers to shed light on the problem.

Mohammed Al Safar said that demand on vegetables and fruits increases every Ramadan and that is exactly the reason prices go up.

He added that the rise in the prices of vegetables and fruits was triggered by shortages in the amount of goods due to the end of the season for many agricultural products.

The cultivation season of tomato has just begun while most consumers require bigger amounts of it, during Ramadan. Tomato was missing from the market a week before the beginning of Ramadan because merchants themselves did not receive their supplies from outside Kuwait. On the other hand tomato farms in Kuwait did not yield enough because of the cooler trend of the weather last January. Kuwait farms, therefore, could not cover market requirements.

Prices

He added that the price of tomato was 750 fils per box and reached a maximum of KD5 a few days ago. This shows that tomato merchants have negligible amounts of tomato, so they sell it at high prices since demand is high.

He believed that merchants outside Kuwait have deliberately stored tomatoes during

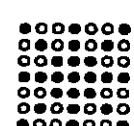
Ramadan to exploit local merchants by increasing the price.

Safar said that prices of Turkish grown and Jordanian tomatoes are different. A box of Jordanian tomato was sold at KD5 and a Turkish at KD4. Tomato merchants buy according to demand because tomato spoils very fast and cannot stand hot weather. He added that most merchants at the vegetables and fruits market are faced with the price competition of co-operative societies. Most consumers now buy by weight instead of by the box to ensure that they get good quality vegetables.

Rents

Safar added that most consumers have begun using tomato paste, which also witnessed a sharp increase in prices.

He expected that the price of tomato will come back to normal during the next two weeks.



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مكتبة الكتب

MIDEAST

Missile help

HAMBURG, West Germany, April 29, (AP): A major West German arms manufacturer helped Argentina, Egypt and Iraq develop medium-range missiles, the newsmagazine Der Spiegel reported yesterday.

The missiles, with a range of at least 1,000 kms (600 miles), are still under development by the three countries and could be used to carry nuclear and chemical warheads, Spiegel said.

The Iraqi missiles would be capable of hitting both Israel and Iran, the magazine said.

Asylum request

KHARTOUM, April 29, (Reuters): Sudan said today that the Army chief of neighbouring Chad, who helped to lead an abortive coup, had given himself up to Sudanese officials.

The SUNA News Agency said Khartoum was now considering a request for political asylum by Hassan Djamous, reported by Chad to have been killed a month ago when government troops crushed the coup attempt.

May Day rallies

ANKARA, April 29, (Reuters): Turkey's capital has banned all rallies on traditional Labour Day on May 1 and stopped police leave for the day, Ankara governor Saffet Arkan said yesterday.

"All measures to prevent the celebration on May 1 have been taken. We will never allow demands for staging meetings and want our workers and students to be cautious," he told reporters.

Compensation

SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 29, (Reuters): The wife of the captain of a US warship who lost her teaching job when her van was blown up by a bomb agreed yesterday to accept \$135,000 in compensation and resign from the school.

Administrators at the exclusive La Jolla Country Day School outside San Diego had not allowed Sharon Rogers, the wife of Captain Will Rogers of the USS Vincennes, to teach since the March 10 bombing, saying she was a security risk.

Reluctant Farah

NEW YORK, April 29, (AP): The wife of the late Shah of Iran says she was reluctant to leave her homeland when her husband was deposed in 1979, and offered to stay behind as a symbol of hope for his supporters.

"I said to my husband, 'if you think you should go because it would calm things, then let me stay. Not that I would have interfered politically, but if I had stayed, people would have seen his representative, and it might have given hope to our supporters,'" deposed Empress Farah Diba said in an interview in the June-July issue of Memories magazine.

Arab summit

DAMASCUS, Syria, April 29, (AP): The Foreign Minister of Morocco, Abdel-Latif Al Filali, arrived yesterday to continue efforts to convene an Arab summit in Morocco next month.

Morocco is planning to host an Arab extraordinary summit conference and envoys of King Hassan II have been touring Arab capitals to extend invitations.

'Ghetto' reviews

LONDON, April 29, (AP): The British debut of "Ghetto," a 1984 play with music, by the Israeli writer Joshua Sobol, yesterday received rave reviews from London critics two days before a separate production of it opens on Broadway.

Jack Tinker in the Daily Mail found the play, a lengthy and episodic work that opened Thursday at the National Theatre's Olivier Auditorium, "a rich, sprawling pageant."

Saddam's birthday

BAGHDAD, April 29, (Reuters): Iraqi authorities ran a special free train to celebrations at the birthplace of President Saddam Hussein on the occasion of his 52nd birthday yesterday.

The train ran from Baghdad to Tikrit, 160 km (100 miles) to the north. In the capital, hundreds of colourfully-clad children from all over the country sang in Arabic and Kurdish and danced for the president at a conference hall.



Stopping a bleeding

A doctor in Gaza's Ahlia Hospital applies pressure to a Palestinian young man's thigh in order to stop his bleeding after he was shot on Thursday by Israeli soldiers during a clash. Three Palestinians were shot dead on Thursday in the occupied territories, and dozens were wounded, mainly in the Gaza Strip. (Reuters wirephoto)

British diplomats under death threats

BRUSSELS, April 29, (UPI): British diplomats in Europe recently received death threats from Islamic extremists because of British author Salman Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses, officials and Belgian news reports said yesterday.

The Brussels daily La Libre Belgique reported the British embassy in Brussels received two letters attacking British protection of Rushdie, who was ordered killed Feb 14 by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for writing the novel that is considered blasphemous by many Muslims.

La Libre Belgique said the letters included a list of British diplomats who would be killed.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman confirmed the embassy received a letter containing death threats but refused to discuss details of security arrangements.

"I can confirm that our embassy in Brussels has received a letter that quotes the 'defenders of the purity of Islam' and it supports the death sentence on Rushdie and threatens death to those who fail to distance themselves from Rushdie," the Foreign Office spokesman said.

"We take this sort of thing very seriously," the government spokesman said. "We were not previously aware of this group. I am not prepared to go into detail as to who is referred to in this letter."

All those mentioned in the letter have been informed of this threat, the spokesman said.

The Belgian newspaper report said a number of the officials named in the letters have returned to Britain recently or were transferred to other posts.

The report said British and Belgian authorities took the threats seriously and stepped up security after the slaying last month of the imam of the Brussels Islamic centre and an aide, Imam Abdullah Ahdal, 35, and his librarian Salem El Bahir, 48, were found shot to death in Ahdal's ground floor office at the main Brussels mosque March 29. Police said shortly before the assassination Ahdal had received telephone threats.

A Belgian Interior Ministry spokesman refused to comment on special security measures that may have been taken because of the letters sent to the British embassy, but said a special task force had been set up after the Ahdal slaying to evaluate threats.

"It is obvious that measures have been devised to protect the British embassy, for instance because of possible threats from the Irish Republican Army and in relation with the Rushdie case," the Interior Ministry spokesman said.

Hamadi trial

Life term demanded

FRANKFURT, April 29, (AP): Prosecutors have demanded a murder conviction and a life sentence for Mohammed Ali Hamadi for the 1985 TWA hijacking that claimed the life of a US sailor.

The prosecutors' closing statement, coming nearly 10 months after the trial started last July 5, said Hamadi knew that his actions were wrong and "violated the foundations of civilisation."

Hamadi, a Lebanese Shiite, is charged with murder and air piracy in the June 14, 1985 hijacking during which US Navy diver Robert Stethem was killed and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

Hamadi has admitted to his role in the hijacking but has denied killing Stethem.

In closing arguments, chief prosecutor Achim Thiel said that although it could not be proved that Hamadi pulled the trigger of the gun that killed Stethem, "it was a clear case, at a minimum, of felony murder."

Afghan women 'forced into isolation'

NEW YORK, April 29, (AP): Afghan women who traditionally were active in providing for their families are being forced into isolation and submission in refugee camps, according to the United Nations' official for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, co-ordinator of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance programme for Afghanistan, said yesterday that relief workers in the Pakistani camps are trying

to help the women but feel caught because they must avoid imposing foreign ideas.

Sadruddin, speaking at a meeting of the women's commission for refugee women and children, explained that the women's social status is declining because they are removed from some of their traditional duties such as gathering and preparing food.

In addition, the Muslim rebels' fight against the communist Kabul government has taken on the quality of a religious war

rather than a civil war, he said. The result is that fundamentalist Muslim sentiment has been rising.

"These women have been forced to live in refugee camps where, inevitably, the changes have imposed seclusion," Sadruddin said.

Dr Cynthia Haq of the Dartmouth medical school, who has studied the camps, said the women largely have declined into "lives of seclusion, desperation and hopelessness."

She said many are denied educational opportunities and are further oppressed by inadequate or non-existent medical care while pregnant.

Ms Haq recommended that the UN form a women's social service centre for the camps, through which the women could articulate their needs. Doing so would avoid the risks of alienating the refugees by imposing Western ideas of what a woman's role should be, she said.

Death toll from Kabul rocket raid rises to 27

KABUL, April 29, (Agencies): The death toll from Thursday's rocket attacks on Kabul has risen to 27 with 60 other people wounded, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Mujahideen rebels fired 65 rockets into the city in a barrage coinciding with the 11th anniversary of a Marxist revolution which installed a pro-Soviet government in Kabul.

The spokesman, Mohammad Amani, said many of the victims were women and children. Most of the rockets fell on residential areas of the sprawling city of 2.5 million.

Amani also said the mujahideen rebels launched an all-out attack on the city of Jalalabad on Thursday, but government forces blocked the offensive, killing 18 rebels.

A mujahideen rebel alliance based in Pakistan launched an attack on Jalalabad on March 5 with the aim of capturing the provincial capital and installing its rival government there.

But the Afghan Army repulsed the thrust.

UN Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar has expressed fears that fighting in Afghanistan will continue for a long period.

During talks held last night with Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, De Cuellar indicated that the UN has only 40 observers in Afghanistan to monitor implementation of Geneva accord between the two superpowers on Afghanistan, and not to halt fighting between regular Army and Afghan mujahideen.

A UN-run food distribution programme will exhaust its stocks this weekend and no new pledges of donations for supply-short Kabul have been obtained, a UN official said Friday.

Meanwhile, the United States said yesterday it found merit in a Pakistani request for UN observers to monitor the flow of Soviet arms to Afghanistan.

Pakistan, charging that Moscow was sending quantities of weapons into Afghanistan in violation of Geneva accords, urged the Security Council on Wednesday to establish UN monitoring posts.

Jordan situation

Speedy economic recovery doubtful

AMMAN, April 29, (Reuters): King Hussein has taken a major step towards meeting popular demands by ordering Jordan's new cabinet to crack down on corruption and prepare for early elections, analysts said.

But they were less hopeful of a speedy turn-around in the economy of the debt-ridden kingdom, hit last week by riots over IMF-inspired price rises in which eight people were killed.

The King ordered the cabinet of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker to "remove favouritism and corruption wherever they are found and...tackle the issue of economic crimes."

He said it should prepare for the first parliamentary elections in 22 years and deepen dialogue between officials and citizens.

The King urged respect for "reasonable freedom in expressing opinions" and for press freedom within limits.

Bin Shaker, a distant cousin of the King, was appointed on Thursday following the resignation on Monday of Zeid Al Rifai.

"The King has pointed his finger at a number of public and political issues that were irritating his people under the previous cabinet and has ordered the new government to deal with them," said an Arab diplomat.

Rifai's government was under sharp criticism for its handling of the economic crisis, for secrecy, intolerance of dissent, alleged corruption and heavy censoring of the traditionally moderate media.

Bin Shaker, 54, commanded the armed forces from 1976 to 1988 when he became royal court chief and adviser to the King.

Technocrats

"It is a cabinet of carefully selected technocrats who have been chosen to give more attention to the economy and improve its performance," said businessman Omar Saleh.

Of the ten newcomers in the 24-member cabinet, five are bankers or economists. They include Basil Jaradat, head of the Investment and Finance Corporation, who was appointed Finance Minister, and Zeid Imah, chief of the Industrial Development Bank, who became trade and industry minister.

Ziad Fariz will steer the Ministry of Planning after working as its secretary-general since 1984. Adnan Badran becomes agriculture minister after presiding over the Council of Sciences and Technology.

Columnist Khaled Mahadeen, who lost his job at a local newspaper during Rifai's rule, said the instruction to pay more attention to press freedom would be strongly welcomed.

But the King's call to his cabinet to restrict the role of Jordan's 11 professional associations to professional matters caused some concern among the politically-oriented groups.

"The associations have become an outlet for popular expression in view of the absence of Parliament and the lack of press freedoms," said an association leader who asked not to be named.

"If this channel will also be blocked, then who is left to talk politics? We have to wait and see to what extent and when reforms will be implemented."

The new Jordanian cabinet last night held its first meeting.

Prince Hassan has praised the Palestinian community in his country for shunning the recent rioting.

He said the rioters were "rebuffed" when they sought support from the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

Khomeini backs reforms

NICOSIA, April 29, (AP): Iran's President Ali Khomeini yesterday backed Ayatollah Khomeini's decision to amend the constitution, and expressed hope that the amendments would give the next Iranian President more powers.

Iran's presidential elections are scheduled for late this summer.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, quoted Khomeini as saying in his Friday sermon that under the present constitution power was divided among too many offices, leaving the President little power.

"There is more dispersion (of power) than can be allowed in a good and strong administration. The various forces and authorities must be a bit more concentrated," IRNA quoted Khomeini as saying.

"You cannot run a country like this in a correct way and with strength," IRNA reported him as saying.

Power under the current constitution is divided between Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and President Khomeini, with Khomeini having the ultimate word on all matters.

Khomeini said that under the present constitution the prime minister has more power than the President, and said that this situation must be rectified if Iran is to be governed by a strong administration, IRNA reported.

Earlier this month 160 parliamentarians sent a letter to Khomeini asking that the constitution be amended.

Khomeini last week appointed a 25-man committee to revise the constitution within two months, and to put it to the people for final approval in a referendum.

The committee will also name

Iran's search for successor

Khomeini dynasty

BAHRAIN, April 29, (UPI): In all the criticism of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini during his 10 years in power, a charge of nepotism was never at the top of the list.

But recent developments in Tehran indicate the only way Khomeini can feel confident his unique brand of Islamic fundamentalism will survive after his death is by promoting his lone surviving son, Ahmed, as his designated successor.

Khomeini, now 86, has never avoided the question of his succession. Shortly after the Iranian revolution, which toppled the Shah in 1979, he set up a special constitutional assembly of experts to select his successor.

The assembly of 83 theologians entrusted Khomeini's legacy at one of the Iranian leader's former students, the moderate Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri.

Khomeini sacked Montazeri on March 28, a move that sparked bloody clashes between elite Revolutionary Guards and Montazeri supporters. Montazeri later was placed under house arrest.

Khomeini must have known that by sacking Montazeri, he was raising questions about the future of his revolution.

Analysts believe he knew all along he eventually would hand over the reins of power to his son, Ahmed.

But under the constitution Khomeini himself helped devise, his son would have to be elected by the council of experts before he could claim the title of official heir.

Rather than risk allowing the council to choose another like Montazeri, Khomeini formed a 20-man commission to amend the constitution.

Most believe that Ahmed, described as his father's supreme confidante, will have a very prominent role in Iran after his father dies.

Already it is Ahmed who helps write, then reads his father's speeches. And it is Ahmed who acts as his father's eyes and ears to the outside world, as well as his liaison with Qom.

While his father was still exiled, Ahmed carried out clandestine work and acted as his father's messenger.

Iranian opposition leader Masoud Rajavi believes Khomeini will push his son to stand in scheduled summer presidential elections, and appoint him designated successor after fixing the elections so Ahmed receives the lion's share of the votes.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who had harshly criticised the government and was rushing to liberalise Iran's tightly controlled society.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so — William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

Gorbachev's coup

Night of the long knives

By Robert Evans

"THIS was a night of the long knives in which no blood was shed and almost everyone came out smiling," said a thoughtful Soviet insider.

"But there were winners and losers, and the winners are on the side of reform."

"There was no doubt that Mikhail Gorbachev emerged stronger than ever from the latest act of a drama that has played for the four years since he took charge of the Kremlin."

The resignation on Tuesday of 110 veterans of the Soviet Union's political powerhouse, the Communist Party central committee, or its adjuncts eased the way ahead for the radical restructuring of society which Gorbachev announced in 1985 but which has progressed painfully.

"It is not so important how Gorbachev persuaded them to go. What is vital is that they have gone," said a Soviet journalist committed to the Kremlin chief's perestroika reform programme.

The 110, nearly all prominent when the now-disgraced Leonid Brezhnev held power, departed with dignity. They wished 'perestroika' well and Gorbachev thanked them for their work.

Seventy-four were full voting members of the central committee well-placed to block the more daring projects spawned by Gorbachev's reforming zeal.

Among them were almost all surviving members of the party's ruling politburo under Brezhnev, who died in 1982 and is now accused of leading the country into stagnation and moral decay.

Some, like former Foreign Minister and President Andrei Gromyko, were brought up under the iron rule of Josef Stalin and found it difficult to adapt to the 'new thinking' now driving the Kremlin.

Others, including former Deputy Prime Minister Gaidar Aliyev, had been linked by the Soviet press with at best doubtful dealings during Brezhnev's final years.

With their departure, the central committee, sometimes termed the party's parliament, was slimmed down to 251 members, including 24 Gorbachev allies promoted from the candidate or non-voting ranks.

"This gives him a more manageable, and certainly more compliant, body to deal with," said a Soviet official with close knowledge of the party's inner workings.

Gorbachev told the plenary session of the committee which approved the 110's collective resignation request that achievements in reform so far were largely due to the 'solidarity and unity' of its members.

But he also hinted at the problems he had encountered.

"I certainly do not want to present the work of the central committee in rosy tones or as any better than it really is," he said. "All of us sitting in this hall know the real picture."

Life, he said, "does not stand still. Apart from economic, social and political decisions," perestroika also brings personnel changes.

"A very serious regrouping of forces is under way in the party and in society as a whole. This is dictated by the new tasks before us."

Soviet insiders discount suggestions that Gorbachev would have liked the committee's approval to summon an extra-ordinary party congress, which alone can bring in totally new faces from the outside.

Many reform-minded officials who have moved into key posts since the last congress in 1986 — before Gorbachev had stamped his authority on the party — remains outside the committee.

"But to all intents and purposes they are already influencing events, and their places are reserved for them at the next congress in 1991," a Moscow political scientist said.

"To call an extra-ordinary congress now would have given a feeling of crisis. And why would Gorbachev want to do that when he has just achieved a major victory?"

PRESS REVIEW

Military option has failed

ABU DHABI, (KUNA): The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad today commented editorially on efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil strife.

It said in part: "What has happened in Beirut recently shows a fact which all Lebanese parties should realise that a military solution to the crisis is impossible."

For 14 years of wars and truces, the military option has always failed and for more than one month the latest round of killings and artillery fire showed that guns will not open the road towards a settlement.

"That is not because differences could not be solved, but because resorting to fighting in the first place was a serious mistake supported by Israel during its invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and occupation of south Lebanon."

"Basically the Lebanese tragedy is a result of an Israeli plot aimed at undermining the formula of co-existence among all Lebanese factions because such a formula starkly contradicted that in Israel which does not respect the rights of non-Jewish communities."

"Such a plot has succeeded to some extent, but the size of destruction should now open the eyes of the Lebanese to understand what is going on against them."

"Let their slogan be: no to gunfire, yes to dialogue. Such a language, added to the Arab League efforts, could put Lebanon on the way to salvation."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1506 — England and the Netherlands sign commercial treaty, but Philip the Handsome subsequently refuse to ratify it because it is so favourable to England.

1524 — Chevalier Bayard is killed and French are driven from Lombardy, Italy.

1650 — French rebels conclude treaty with Spain.

1657 — English fleet defeats Spanish fleet off Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

1789 — George Washington is inaugurated as first president of United States.

1803 — United States purchases Louisiana territory and New Orleans from France.

1824 — Crete is captured by Egyptians.

1881 — France's Navy seizes Bizerta, and troops invade Tunis from Algeria.

1900 — Hawaii is organised as a territory of United States.

1919 — World War I peace conference grants German concession in Shantung, China, to Japan, whereupon China leaves the conference.

1953 — People's Progressive Party wins first election in British Guyana.

1970 — US President Richard Nixon announces he had ordered American troops into action against communists sanctuaries inside Kampuchea.

1975 — Communist troops of North Vietnam and provisional revolutionary government take over Saigon, ending Vietnam war.

1986 — Soviet government says 197 people were hospitalised in Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, that plant's reactor has been shut down and radiation levels are dropping.

1988 — College student hurls three homemade bombs into headquarters of President Roh Tae-Woo's governing party in Seoul, Korea, and is arrested.

High marks for openness, low ratings on direction

Bush gets a mixed report card for first 100 days

By Joseph Mianowany

WASHINGTON, (UPI): George Bush, who ran for the presidency preaching continuity, reaches 100 days in office today as a far different politician than his mentor, Ronald Reagan, displaying stark contrasts in style and substance that produced his greatest strengths and weaknesses.

Since his inauguration Jan 20, Bush has been praised for his openness and conciliatory nature, but criticised for drifting more than leading and for being too slow at getting his administration moving.

His lack of a clear-cut ideology, critics charge, has hampered efforts to steer a firm direction or draft a game plan for his troops. But, his supporters counter, his willingness to deal with Congress and strive for consensus rather than confrontation is a blessing that will pay long-run dividends.

All of this is a drastic departure from Reagan, the one-time cold warrior for whom a conservative ideology was of prime importance and who, especially in his early White House years, would fight Congress on a moment's notice.

The contrasts have also gone beyond style and into policy — a development that is the most surprising since Bush campaigned for the presidency on the theme that he would continue the Reagan legacy.

The public, which always gave Reagan high approval ratings, bought that argument in the November election and, judging by the high marks Bush received in several recent polls, still appears to be on the Bush bandwagon.

This comes as evidence mounts that, after reaching the arbitrary milestone of his first 100 days in office, Bush is a much different political animal than the man he loyally served as vice-president for two terms.

In foreign affairs he has rejected a cornerstone of Reagan's policy, negotiating a deal with the Democrat-led Congress on the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

In domestic affairs he has signed a whistle-blower protection bill that Reagan opposed, supported a rise in the minimum wage that Reagan ignored, took several steps in the environment that went far beyond Reagan's record, and tackled a crisis in the savings and loan industry that festered under Reagan.

The differences appear to have changed the political equation in Washington and altered the conventional wisdom established by eight years of the Reagan presidency.



President George Bush

Without Reagan in the White House, Democrats controlling Congress have been rethinking their strategies. While many have praised Bush's call for bipartisanship, there are signs that his openness to negotiate as a tool to push through their own agenda.

"We seek co-operation, but we also seek to meet our responsibilities as a co-equal and independent branch of government," said Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine, Bush's main Democratic opponent.

"We welcome the President's initiatives... but it is not our intention to merely sit back and wait to see if the President proposes solutions to the problems facing our society," Mitchell said. "We intend to act where necessary — hopefully with the President, if necessary, without him."

That approach was clear in the battle over the minimum wage increase that developed just as Bush was reaching his 100-day mark. Divided with Congress over what appeared to be relatively minor differences in the wage increase, the President vowed to veto all raises that did not exactly meet his standards.

Democrats, feeling their power, vowed to keep sending him their version of an increase until he signed it into law.

For his support, Bush has relied on mainstream Republicans and has developed at least a temporary alliance with conservatives who, not wanting to be left out of the mix, have been defending the President although some of his policies fail to toe the line of the hard-

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For his support, Bush has relied on mainstream Republicans and has developed at least a temporary alliance with conservatives who, not wanting to be left out of the mix, have been defending the President although some of his policies fail to toe the line of the hard-

right. "Bush is Bush and there is nothing we can do about it. At some point we have to stop comparing him with Ronald Reagan," said Phil Truluck of the conservative Heritage Foundation, who praised the President for a "good, strong performance," but complained about the lack of a strong White House agenda.

"He's not coming in tossing up all the balls in the air as Reagan had," added Truluck. "He is rearranging them and trying to make them all fit."

In any event, the first 100 days of the Bush presidency, although criticised for being slow to start because of delays in filling many top appointments, have produced early agreements on the federal budget and aid to the Contras — areas that each year caused bitter, drawn-out battles between Reagan and Capitol Hill.

In some ways, both of those deals reflected the main thrust of the Bush White House — they relied more on atmospherics and feelings than substance.

However, by moving to bury the two divisive issues early and lessen his battles with Congress, Bush was able to shift his focus to other matters. In one major initiative, he engaged in ambitious early talks with Middle Eastern leaders in an effort to craft a peace solution for that troubled region.

But Bush has also found that striking a negotiator's pose, especially in battles with Congress, can carry a different set of dangers.

In adopting a conciliatory tone in place of a more strident one, Bush has in his first 100 days kept his rhetoric low key.

Consequently, he has often surrendered the media spotlight long held by Reagan.

Bush's lack of sharp attacks — labelled boring by some — has prompted criticism that he is more of a follower than a leader, and warnings that by seeking only consensus, he risks never establishing a solid identity for his administration.

"I'm afraid that he is much better at reacting to events than he is at creating reality," noted Norman Ornstein, political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"If Bush does not have a forward agenda... he's going to spend his life responding to the agenda of the Democrats," added right wing activist Howard Phillips, who believes even Reagan abandoned true conservative causes late in his administration.

"The difference is that Reagan was able to convey the impression of being a conservative warrior against the liberal Congress," noted Phillips. "Bush, however, rather than emulating the

Reagan style, is emulating the style of Gerald Ford. If Bush continues following that strategy, he, like Ford, will be a president of brief duration."

The practice of rating a president's performance in his first 100 days started with Franklin Roosevelt, who moved with extraordinary speed in 1933 to combat the great depression. Since then, presidents have complained — that it is unfair — that 100 days is too short a time to truly gauge performance.

Bush also disputes it, noting recently he does not believe it is appropriate in his case "because we aren't radically shifting things."

Need "I don't feel the need for some precipitous and dramatic initiative in order to save the consciences of those who are saying, 'you've got to do something in 100 days,'" he added.

Nonetheless, Bush last week launched a cross-country tour to boast of his accomplishments in 100 days and contended that his positive poll results prove the public understands he is making progress.

"We've made a good start these first three months and there's more to come," Bush declared in Chicago, citing what he called "decisive action" in many areas through "tough, principled negotiations between this administration and Congress."

Many analysts agree the 100-day milestone is arbitrary, but also stress that the initial impression a president makes is critical. "I give it six months," said Ornstein. "In six months you make an impression and that impression sticks."

Because he has not struck out on any bold initiatives, the impression Bush has made may depend on the vantage point of the observer.

"He's done well for those people who think that basically everything is OK," said Stephen Hess, an expert on the presidency for the Brookings Institution. "For those people who think there are immediate and serious problems he has done less well."

On the negative side, some analysts say the good ratings the public has given Bush may be grounded in the fact that he has not stood strongly for anything but moderation. Others contend that his slowness in filling staff jobs is most troubling because of his experience.

But according to several analysts, Bush's strength may lay in timing — that after eight years of a battling Reagan, the country wants a calming influence.

One of the best examples of the placid effect may have come in the aftermath of the Senate's rejection of John Tower as defence secretary — a stinging defeat for Bush that may have been the low point of his first 100 days.

Poachers slaughter African elephants in thousands

Ivory traders face growing public hostility

By John Morrison

HARARE, (Reuter): As Africa's elephants are slaughtered in their thousands by poachers, legal ivory traders fear they will soon be forced out of business by soaring prices and growing public hostility.

"We too are becoming an endangered species," joked John Isley, a Johannesburg-based buyer at an ivory auction held here recently.

His friend from London, British buyer Tom Friedlein, said: "When I go to parties now I just say 'I'm in ivory export, otherwise I might get thumped. If I said I was peddling drugs for a living, I wouldn't get a worse reception.'"

Isley, Friedlein and several other regular buyers had come to Harare to attend what is probably Africa's last legal ivory auction, held once or twice a year at the headquarters of Zimbabwe's national parks.

Laid out in lots on the asphalt in the April sunshine were five tonnes of tusks, each weighed, numbered and listed in a catalogue. Auctioneer Ian Ferreira climbed on to his stool and opened the bidding.

"Come along, gentlemen,

you've come all this way, you must take something home," he urged. Soon the bids rolled in.

About half the ivory was embargoed, meaning it cannot be exported before being worked. It was snapped up by local craftsmen such as Patrick Mavros, Zimbabwe's best-known ivory sculptor, for up to 300 dollars (\$150) a kilo.

The remainder was free for export and fetched up to twice as much. Big pairs of tusks weighing around 50 kilos went for 600-700 dollars (\$300-350) a kilo. In less than two hours the sale was over and Ferreira had netted 1.4 million dollars (\$700,000) for Zimbabwe's state coffers.

The ivory, sold only to registered buyers under tight control, mostly comes from culling of elephants in Zimbabwe's national parks. Exports and import permits are approved by Swiss-based headquarters of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

But the days of Zimbabwe's legal ivory market may be numbered.

"Prices were a good 25 per cent up from last July by next October they will be up by the same amount again," said Friedlein. Ivory is used for making piano keys but the bulk of the demand

comes from Hong Kong and Japan where the tusks are made into intricate traditional carvings.

Rising prices and dwindling supplies are only one side of the problem for the traders.

In North America and Europe public feeling against all forms of trade in wildlife products is running high, whether it involves elephants tusks or baby seal pelts.

"The legal trade is almost out of business," said Friedlein.

The five tonnes auctioned here was only a small fraction of a worldwide trade estimated at between 500 and 1,000 tonnes annually — most of it illegal.

Dubai, Singapore and Macao are other major centres.

The problem is that even under CITES, too much poached ivory is legalised by governments.

Until recently Burundi, which has no elephants, acted as a channel for illegal exports of several hundred tonnes a year.

"It's difficult to draw the line between the legal trade and the illegal trade," said Isley, who fears that African countries which are "clean" such as Zimbabwe will be tainted by association with those that are not.

The traders believe the trend in Europe and North America towards tighter and tighter con-

trols will continue: "I don't think the answer is to ban it, or it will go underground like the drug trade," Friedlein commented.

His pessimism is shared by the Swiss-based World Wide Fund for nature (WWF) whose president Charles de Haes last month launched an \$18 million plan to save the African elephant.

"There seems little doubt that conventional trade controls are failing," he said. Poachers are halving Africa's elephant population roughly every 10 years. Elephant numbers have fallen from two million in 1970 to 700,000 today.

Animal lovers might wonder why, when the problem is so serious, elephants are still being legally killed.

The answer is that while poachers have cut a swathe through elephants populations in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Mozambique and Sudan, the elephant numbers in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa are either stable or growing.

In Zimbabwe there are tens of thousands of elephants and if their numbers are not controlled, national parks officials say, they will turn forests into wastelands, knocking over trees to nibble tasty shoots and then moving on.

UN image tarnished

Peacekeeping slows down

By Anthony Goodman

UNITED NATIONS, (Reuter): After scaling dizzying diplomatic heights in 1988, the United Nations finds it has only reached a new plateau, with solutions to most of its problems still towering in the distance.

From Afghanistan to the Gulf and from Cyprus to western Sahara, the remarkable progress achieved last year has slowed to a snail's pace.

The 1988 Nobel peace prize that the United Nations won for peacekeeping has been tarnished by a poor start in organising an operation to oversee Namibia's transition to independence from South Africa.

The signing last April of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, after six years of hard bargaining, marked a high point for the world organisation and led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February this year.

But the agreement, which also barred Pakistan and Afghanistan from meddling in each other's affairs, has done nothing to halt nearly 10 years of warfare between the Soviet-backed Kabul government and the US and Pakistan-supported mujaheddin.

More than five million refugees who fled to Pakistan and Iran are deterred from returning home by the continuing bloodshed and by millions of mines that will still be claiming victims well into the next century.

One of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's greatest personal achievements was the August 20 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, the longest and bloodiest conflict since World War Two.

Nearly nine months later, the two armies still sit glaring at each other, often only a few yards (metres) apart, while the secretary-general confronts a brick wall in his efforts to turn the shaky truce into a full-fledged peace.

After another round of so-called "proximity talks" in Geneva this month with Foreign Ministers Tariq Aziz of Iraq and Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, Perez de Cuellar said: "We have made no real progress... although the process continues."

The two sides have barely budged from positions adopted when the talks began five days after the ceasefire took force.

Iraq insists on priority for clearing the Shatt Al Arab, the debris-strewn waterway that forms the southern border of the

warring nations, while Iran says the first order of business must be withdrawal of remaining Iraqi troops from about 1,000 square miles (2,600 square km) of Iranian territory.

Another complicating factor is political uncertainty in Iran over the succession to the country's 86-year-old spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

In another burst of UN-inspired activity last August, the leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities pledged themselves to a June 1989, target for resolving differences that have left their island partitioned for almost 15 years and the north occupied by Turkish troops.

Since then they have engaged in some of the most intensive negotiations since inter-communal violence erupted barely three years after Cyprus won independence from Britain in 1960.

But, as periodic reporting visits to the United Nations have made clear, President George Vassiliou, representing the Greek Cypriots, and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash can agree, at most, only to continue talking. June 1 is likely to be only the latest in a long list of unmet deadlines.

The UN operations in Namibia, when fully launched, will involve 4,650 troops and more than 1,500 civilians and police and aims to bring the territory to independence by next April.

But the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) is only now approaching its full complement of troops, nearly a month after the operation got under way.

In the meantime, bloody clashes between South African troops and police and infiltrating black nationalist guerrillas have left more than 300 dead.

SWAPO's African and other supporters for not being fully manned by the April 1 start-up date and for permitting South African forces to take the field, instead of being confined to barracks in accordance with the UN's Namibia independence plan.

UNTAG's next big challenge will be to ensure free and fair elections in November for an assembly that will write a constitution for the sprawling territory, the size of France and West Germany combined, with a population of 1.3 million.



moon ki Sham Pakistan key Naam."

However, we try to keep a low profile and allow the community to take due credit for their participation.

I shall be grateful if you would kindly publish this letter to put the record straight.

Syed Iqbal Hussain, press and cultural attache, Pakistan Embassy.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Subjective review

SIR: After reading the review by Diane Dian on the "Variations" presented by the Contemporary Dance School of Kuwait, I came away feeling as though there was a personal grudge held against our dance school.

There was only mention of poor choreography, nervousness — a common element in first night performances, and giggles that "prevented the audience from feeling the rhythm and mood of the piece being performed." Added to that, there was no mention of the set or the costumes, a very important part of the production.

I have been dancing in this school for nine years now, and I know how much effort and times goes into producing such a ballet as "Variations". The choreography was of the best standard; and Mrs Hicks has received a British Award for it. It may have been our (the dancers') fault for not dancing it the way Diaz expected, but it was definitely not Mrs Hicks' fault.

It seemed as though Ms Diaz expected to come to this opening night to find a ballet with more personality and emotion. If she had bothered to stay for the second half, "Fire and Ice", she might have found just that — a very emotive ballet.

I am not writing this to attack Ms Diaz, but simply to point out the unfairness of her attacks. There was not a single compliment only 15 attacks on Mrs Hicks' choreography and our "robotic" dance style. She did not comment on any of the solo's in particular either.

Maybe next time Ms Diaz can at least grace us with her presence through the second half. And maybe she could give a more rounded and objective review with comments on everything rather than the subjective one she presented.

Maria Sarraf, Safat.

All Pakistanis welcome

Sir: I have kept the misleading letter of K.P.Das, of Salmiya published in Arab Times of

26th April, 1989, regarding the participation of Pakistan in a charitable bazaar organised by Nadeem Al-Fatani.

As clarified earlier in the Urdu section of my newspaper, Pakistan's participation in the bazaar was under the auspices of the cultural section of the embassy. Most of the handicrafts which were displayed at the stall were also arranged by the Embassy, in addition to meeting the financial aspect.

However, Mrs Yasmeen Muzaffar participated actively in organizing the function along with other ladies which was highly appreciated by this embassy. The embassy welcomes the help of all ladies of Pakistani origin irrespective of their present nationality.

The inaugural function was attended by both the ambassador and his wife.

The Embassy of Pakistan organises such community functions occasionally. Recently on 29th March, 1989, a function was organized in connection with the Pakistan Day under the auspices of the embassy called, "Milli Nagh-

مکتبہ القرآن

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait trade volume jumps

Market turns mixed

THE Alshail Index for Kuwait shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 38.63 points with a decrease of 0.08 point — 0.21 per cent from last week's average.

Alshail Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.07 points with a decrease of 1.30 point — 1.90 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshail economic consultants' weekly report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 62.67 million shares at a daily average of 12.53 million shares with an increase of 55 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 8.08 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 8.65 million shares at a daily average of 1.73 million shares with an increase of 108 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.83 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD22.15 million at a daily average of KD4.43 million, an increase of 70 per cent over last week's daily average of KD2.61 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.400 million at a daily average of KD0.080 million, an increase of 82 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.044 million.

The market showed signs of mixed performance more inclined to the active side at the beginning of the week, which was reflected on both the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti shares market.

The increase in market activity is related to the recent government declarations which stated that general solutions to most economic problems are going to be implemented after receiving the reports of the six committees that were appointed by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Whereas "we doubt that such solutions could be found easily as many may believe, however we cannot neglect the temporary positive effect it has already had on both prices and trade volume in the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market."

During the last week, no companies have declared any dividend distributions for 1988 which kept the total of companies that distributed dividends at 59 per cent against 41 per cent for companies that did not distribute dividends.

The percentage of companies that distributed dividends for both 1986 and 1987 are the same as this year's.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector had the lead at 73 per cent of total trading against 70 per cent last week.

The Commercial Bank led at 26 per cent, followed by Burgan Bank at 22 per cent and Gulf Bank at 17 per cent.

The services sector came second at 11 per cent of which Kuwait commercial markets had the lead at 55 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 37 per cent, and Public Warehousing at 8 per cent.

The real estate sector came third at 9 per cent of which United Realty had the lead at 82 per cent followed by Kuwait Real Estate at 18 per cent.

For the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank led at 41 per cent followed by Umm Al Quain Cement at 19 per cent and Bahrain and Middle East Bank at 15 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 28/04/89	Wednesday 19/04/88	Change
Banking Sector	112.35	111.20	1.15
The National Bank	33.69	33.69	—
The Gulf Bank	33.69	33.69	—
The Commercial Bank	25.47	25.47	—

Al Ahli Bank	33.30	32.80	0.50
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	31.44	31.44	—
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	29.14	28.71	0.43
Burgan Bank	28.74	29.24	-0.50
Kuwait Finance House	29.10	29.92	-0.82
Sector Index	47.87	47.47	0.20

Investment Sector	17.45	17.45	—
Kuwait Investment Co.	10.65	11.68	-1.03
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	63.49	69.05	-5.56
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	35.29	35.29	—
IFA	116.88	116.88	—
Commercial Facilities	63.73	65.69	-1.96
National Investments	87.64	89.89	-2.25
Kuwait Investment Proj.	32.48	33.19	-0.71

Insurance Sector	35.28	35.28	—
Kuwait Insurance Co.	27.69	27.69	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	47.74	47.74	—
Al Ahleia Insurance Co.	58.42	58.42	—
Warba Insurance Co.	36.55	36.55	—

Sector Index	15.80	16.82	-1.02
Real Estate Sector	6.25	6.37	-0.11
Kuwait Real Estate	35.83	35.83	—
United Realty	13.40	13.76	-0.36

Industrial Sector	11.59	11.59	—
Kuwait Cement Co.	83.45	83.45	—
Refineries Indus.	110.87	112.00	-1.13
Gulf Cables	78.22	80.89	-2.67
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	30.46	30.71	-0.25

Services Sector	162.00	162.00	—
Kuwait Computer Co.	8.56	8.56	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	68.69	70.71	-2.02
Public Warehousing Co.	37.75	37.75	—
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	271.43	280.95	-9.52
Mobile Telephone Syst.	53.82	55.02	-1.20

Food Sector	30.51	30.51	—
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	10.62	10.06	0.57
United Fisheries	83.61	83.61	—
Kuwait United Poultry	66.67	67.82	-1.15
Kuwait Food Co.	35.89	35.89	—
Sector Index	38.63	38.70	-0.08

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index	Wednesday 28/04/89	Wednesday 19/04/88	Change
First Gulf Bank	144.74	144.74	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	85.52	86.90	-1.38
Bahrain M. East Bank	90.17	91.12	-0.95
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	77.14	80.00	-2.86
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	49.24	50.00	-0.76
Umm Al Quain Cement	17.62	18.00	-0.37
Gulf Medical Projects	20.83	20.83	—
Total Index	67.07	68.37	-1.30

—Base period 31/12/1983.
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

GCC did not discuss rise in OPEC output: Saudi official

NICOSIA, April 29, (Reuters): A Saudi Oil Ministry official today said oil ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) did not discuss a rise in OPEC's output ceiling and production quota during their meeting in Jeddah on Wednesday.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a senior source in the ministry as saying the meeting "did not include in its agenda OPEC's rise in output ceiling nor production quota."

The six GCC oil ministers issued a final statement after the Jeddah meeting but did not announce any stand on an increase in OPEC's output ceiling.

Industry sources said demands by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for higher individual quotas had been expected to be discussed at the talks.

Decisions
In remarks before the GCC oil ministers met, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd advised OPEC: "There is no need for taking hasty decision which will only cause more instability."

Official regional news agencies had earlier reported the GCC talks would focus on studying the extent of the increase in world demand. The ministers' final statement said only that the meeting discussed co-operation in transporting and distributing natural gas.

The GCC lines OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, and non-OPEC Oman and Bahrain.

Near 32-month low
Gold prices sharply down

LONDON, April 29, (Reuters): Gold bullion prices remained near 32-month lows during late trading yesterday, pressured by weakness in New York and a firmer dollar, dealers said.

Gold closed in London at \$378 an ounce, down from the previous close of \$383.75. In mid-afternoon it was fixed at \$377.55, its lowest setting since August, 1986.

The metal weakened throughout the day, with the fall below such key technical and psychological support levels as \$380 prompting further selling.

Initially the drop reflected a weak silver market, but the decline gathered momentum in afternoon when the New York bullion market moved lower, dealers said.

The day's losses broke the market out of its recent \$380 to \$395 range, although prices were expected to stabilise soon as buyers who actually use gold in industry rather than speculators become attracted by the lower prices, they added.

Silver dropped to 25-month lows yesterday, due largely to weakness in New York on Thursday. The spot market price of the metal ended in London at 563 cents an ounce, down 14 cents from Thursday.

Loan agreements
KUWAIT, April 29, (KUNA): The Commercial Facilities Company (CFC) signed two loans at the value of \$15 million, it was announced here today.

The CFC in a press release said that the company last week signed a loan of \$10 million with Bank of America for a three-year period.

The statement added that the company also signed another loan at the value of \$5 million with Grindings Bank.

The revenues of the loan agreements, which was signed by the managing director of the CFC, Abdullah Al-Humaidhi, will be allocated to finance the company's operations which include giving short term and long term loans to finance consumer commodities.

Top priority to boost oil output

Tehran expands export capacity

DUBAI, April 29, (Reuters): Iran's economy is being kept afloat by oil with political turmoil hitting other options for recovery after the eight-year-long Gulf war.

Economists and oil analysts said Tehran was giving top priority to boosting oil output and export capacity and would hold tightly to its world oil markets, which provide at least 90 per cent of its foreign exchange.

A ban by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini on close ties with Western nations, aimed at preserving the Islamic ideals of his 1979 revolution, has blocked any influx of Western funds and technology, the economists said.

"So the easiest thing to do is to try to find which part of the economy can get you the quickest rates of return, and the only sector is oil," said an Iranian oil analyst.

Higher oil export capacity would give Iran more clout in negotiating its output quota with other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries states.

That would leave Iran well-placed to take advantage of any rise in world oil demand.

Reliance
But Gulf-based bankers said the excessive reliance on oil could undermine a widely-held assumption that Iran, with a small external debt estimated at five to \$6 billion, was a good credit risk if it ever did decide to borrow abroad.

The bankers said Iran could find it hard to repay any new loans from abroad if its hard currency earnings stagnated.

Non-oil exports fell 11 per cent to \$971 million in the 1988/89 year to March 20, according to official figures. The main exports were carpets, pistachio nuts, hides, and copper bars, the first three being cheap goods with a limited market.

Political upheavals have ended expectation that Iran, after agreeing a ceasefire from last August in its war with Iraq, would start emergency repairs to its manufacturing base and other

sectors of its shattered economy. Last month Khomeini sacked his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who was widely regarded as a moderate. A successor has not been appointed.

Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh in charge of economic reconstruction said last week that foreign borrowing would hurt Iran's independence.

Oil analysts calculate Iran's oil output capacity at just over three million barrels per day (BPD) and its export capacity at just over 2.5 million.

Its OPEC output quota is 2.64 million (BPD), the same as Iraq's, but a Reuters survey for March showed it producing three million BPD. Iranian officials say the balance is going into stockpiles.

Oil also has to support most of Iran's barrier trade and provide fuel for its industrial sector, which Iranian economists calculate is running at an average 40 per cent capacity due to a 50 per cent shortfall in energy supplies.

Iran signs contract for oil refinery

NICOSIA, April 29, (Reuters): Iran said on Thursday it had signed a contract with Japanese and Italian firms to build an oil refinery with capacity of 150,000 barrels per day (BPD).

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh as saying the refinery, Iran's seventh, would be built at the central city of Arak at a cost of 130 billion rials (\$1.8 billion) over the next 40 months.

He said the contract was signed by the National Iranian Oil Company on Wednesday but did not give the value of the contract. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, named the foreign companies as Japan's GGC and Italy's TPL.

Products
Aghazadeh said Iran's annual import bill for refined products had fallen sharply since the Abadan refinery started processing 130,000 BPD of crude oil last month.

Iraq, attacked the refinery, the world's largest, and other plants during the Gulf war.

Iran's earnings from oil in the Iranian year ended in March were \$10 billion, independent analysts have estimated.

Its refining capacity in February was about 620,000 BPD and crude output in first half of April about 2.7 million BPD.

"Iran will cut imports of oil products and become ready to export such products once Arak and Bandar Abbas refineries and the second phase of the Abadan refinery are put into operation," IRNA quoted Aghazadeh as saying.

Capacity
He said earlier this month that the Abadan plant's capacity would be increased to 380,000 BPD in the second phase with installation of new equipment.

Tehran radio quoted Aghazadeh as saying on Thursday that Iran signed a contract with a Finnish firm to buy oil rigs and build service vessels over three years to drill for oil in the Caspian Sea.

Advisers to Takeshita propose reforms

TOKYO, April 29, (Reuters): Advisers to Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Thursday proposed political reforms to prevent a repetition of the scandal that forced him to announce two days ago that he would resign.

The ruling party, meanwhile, broke the stalemate that has stalled the national budget in parliament for the past seven weeks, ramming it through a key committee despite a continuing opposition boycott over the scandal.

Takeshita's private advisory panel issued recommendations on reform following the Recruit donations-for-favours scandal. The scandal has dominated Japanese politics for months with many revolutions of payments to top politicians and others.

The Recruit publishing and telecommunications group passed large sums to dozens of public figures, mostly in the form of pre-listing shares in a subsidiary on inflated fees for tickets to fund-raising parties.

The 12-member board of advisers, including businessmen, labour leaders and a former senior prosecutor, called for: — public disclosure of assets by cabinet ministers and their families and all members of parliament — self-restraint by ministers and other politicians in financial transactions including stock and

real-estate trading — self-restraint by politicians on the holding of political fund-raising parties and the distribution by politicians of gifts at wedding and funerals and during festivals and other occasions

Political analyst Yasushi Haga said the proposed requirement for complete disclosure of financial affairs by lawmakers would be effective in stopping such unethical dealings as had been uncovered in the Recruit scandal.

"Such disclosures would in effect be a ban (on share and real-estate deals by cabinet ministers) in view of the current public concern over such deals," Haga said.

Responsibility
Takeshita announced on Tuesday that he would resign to take responsibility for the scandal as soon as the national budget was passed by parliament, now expected by late May.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party announced on Thursday that following the budget's passage by the key budget committee the budget bill would be presented to the lower house of parliament.

The opposition parties, which have continued their demands for a full disclosure of the Recruit scandal, said they would maintain their boycott.

Australian anger mounts

Quayle plays down trade dispute

SYDNEY, Australia, April 29, (AP): US Vice-President Dan Quayle today played down a trade dispute with Australia as anger mounted over his remark that US grain subsidies weren't hurting the Australian economy.

"I don't believe we have angered the Australian government," Quayle told a news conference.

Quayle said he now has a better understanding of Australian concerns and declared the US-Australian alliance is stronger than ever.

But senior government officials in Australia said US trade policy was the "single most important" issue that Prime Minister Bob Hawke had wanted to raise during the vice-president's five-day visit.

Deal
Quayle's trip has been marked by criticism from Australian officials over the US export enhancement programme, which provides subsidies to US grain farmers. Australia says the programme hurts its exports in third-country markets.

Quayle told reporters in Canberra on Thursday, "it is my belief that US trade policy isn't hurting Australia."

But Hawke vowed last yesterday to keep pressuring the United States for a better deal on wheat.

United orders 370 Boeing planes

CHICAGO, April 29, (Reuters): United Airlines on Wednesday announced the largest order in US aviation history, ordering up to 370 aircraft from Boeing Co. for \$15.75 billion.

The order comes close to matching the size of United's current fleet of 412 aircraft if all the options are exercised, although many of the new planes, which will start appearing in two years, will replace older ones.

Engines will be supplied by Pratt and Whitney, General Electric Co. and Snecma of France.

"United has made clear that our airline will grow and compete vigorously, and that we will have one of the newest, most modern fleets in aviation," said Steven Wolf, chairman of United's parent, UAL Corp.

The 737s will be delivered between July 1991 and July 1995 and the options up until 1998.

Al Jarwan optimistic about economy

Inflation expected to drop 4pc in UAE

DUBAI, April 29, (OPECNA): Inflation is expected to drop to four per cent in the United Arab Emirates in 1988, according to Minister of Economy and Trade Saif Al Jarwan.

Expectations also point to a 10 per cent increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) and six per cent in real GDP while local consumption will grow by seven per cent and spending on investment eight per cent, Al Jarwan told the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry's magazine "Trade".

Al Jarwan expressed optimism about the UAE economy despite the decline in oil revenues.

"The downward trend in the country's economy has stopped since 1987 and the industrial sector has gone up by five to six per cent that year and continued to improve in 1988," he said.

He said that despite the drop in oil revenues, the state's current account remained intact and the trade balance soared by 227 per cent from \$1.58 billion in 1986 to 5.17 billion in 1987.

He said the UAE, like other states, was affected by the world recession in 1980s while the fall in oil earnings hit government spending.

"But achievements in the production of natural gas and liquefied gas and other condensates have created new revenues that support our balance of payments," he told the magazine.

He said the UAE's imports had dropped and the decline was an indication that domestic resources were developing and the country was on its way to self-sufficiency.

According to Al Jarwan, UAE's non-oil exports were more than doubled in the period 1982-87 from \$558 million to 1.25 billion.

"The domination of the oil sector on the national economy is receding, with the oil sector's share in the GDP dropping to 40 per cent in 1987 from around 70 per cent in 1980," he said.

Among other positive indications in the UAE, he said, was that prices had not increased sharply in local markets owing to hectic competition.

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Iraq plans vast oil product storage facility on Gulf port

BAGHDAD, April 29, (OPECNA): Iraq has announced that it is to build an oil product storage complex at the Khor Al Zubair port to serve as an interlinking facility for the Basra refinery which is due to resume full operations shortly.

The project, to be built by the State Company for Oil Projects (SCOP), an affiliate of the oil ministry, is aimed at boosting Iraq's export of by-products by tankers moving through the Gulf.

When completed in 1994, the storage complex will enable Iraq to export the surplus of its oil derivatives not only from the Basra refinery but other refineries as well.

Construction is to begin in 1990 and will be completed in five stages, including the expansion of oil storage capacity at the Basra refinery and the construction of a complete new network of pumping pipelines linking the refinery to the Khor Al Zubair Port, 75 km to the south.

Under the third phase of the project, two oil terminals will be built at the port for exporting crude and oil derivatives such as benzene, gasoline, high and low grade naphtha, fuel oils, lubricants and engine oil.

In the fourth stage, industrial and management buildings will be constructed at two separate sites, one in the vicinity of the Basra refinery and the other in the Khor Al Zubair area, the final stage will see the Iraqi company complete auxiliary services and communication facilities, including a telecommunications network, control centre and residential units.

The new project is expected to greatly increase Iraq's hard currency earnings because of the country's enhanced petroleum product export capacity.

The Basra refinery, whose completion was delayed by the Gulf war, is expected to go into full operations in June with a capacity of 140,000 BPD of products and 100,000 tonnes of

lubricating oils. Repairs to the plant which suffered extensive damage was completed in entirety by Iraqi engineers and technicians.

The refinery's first processing unit, which came on stream recently, has an annual designed capacity of 3.50 million tonnes of light oil products.

Its induction was followed by the export from the Khor Al Zubair port of Iraq's first shipment of petroleum by-products across the Gulf on board the oil tanker "Khanagah" which sailed with a cargo 19,500 tonnes of gasoline to the United Arab Emirates on March 31.

Meanwhile, Dr Ali Noori Ali, SCOP director-general, said Monday that his company was building a number of oil projects throughout Iraq at a cost of nearly \$5.30 billion.

These projects, he said, included gas processing, oilfield development and an oil transportation network.

One of the major projects involved the expansion of the existing capacity of the strategic pipeline which links the country's northern and southern oil fields.

He pointed out that SCOP had so far undertaken 39 different oil projects at a cost of about \$740 million.

The British Embassy has a vacancy for a COMMERCIAL OFFICER

who would be responsible for the promotion of British products in the consumer, food and agricultural sectors.

Applicants should have Arabic as their mother tongue, and be fluent in written and spoken English. They should have a transferable work permit, be under forty years of age and own and drive their own motor car.

Hand-written applications should be submitted before May 31, 1989, giving details of nationality, education, previous employers and any experience in the fields mentioned above, addressed to the First Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, P.O. Box 2, Safat 13003, Kuwait.

After four marriages, she's still looking for Mr Right

Joan Collins: I'm no good at keeping men

By Ktima Heathcote

SOAP opera queen Joan Collins has just about everything a woman could ask for — beauty, a good body and brains.

The glamorous actress has enjoyed a successful film and business career. She has also earned respect, pots of money and superstar status in her role as super-rich Alexis in the TV soap Dynasty.

Indeed, this spirited lady — an inspiration to any woman — is successful in everything to which she turns her carefully manicured hands, except for one thing. Marriage.

While building up her career as a mega-rich star, the 56-year-old actress had tied the knot four times. And divorced four times.

For despite her professional knack of always picking a winner, whether for acting, writing or business, her love-life has been disastrous. And it has always ended in heart-break for Joan. Never the man.

She was badly treated by Maxwell Reed, betrayed by Anthony Newley, widowed by Ron Kass and milked by blond, blue-eyed toyboy Peter Holm.

But nowhere can you see the stresses and strains of the past years etched on Joan's finely-chiselled face. She has never once let herself go...in the public eye, at least. Her make-up and hair are enviably perfect. Her clothes of the finest cloth. But every now and then her eyes show a flicker of emotion as Joan talks about her obviously painful experiences. She confided: "I don't know whether I will ever marry again. It's a big step."

"I don't want to say I'm definitely not going to get married again, or never going to live with somebody again. I can't say because I don't really know what's going to happen."

"I'm a very romantic person and have a tremendous capacity for loving and for caring about some human being. But sometimes I think, 'Why did I get married four times? Why didn't I wait and pick someone who might have been all right? But it's easy in hindsight. I guess I'm just no good at marriage, but I love men,'" she purred. Joan added: "I just love their company and being around them. I adore their sense of humour, that boyish childish streak they have — it's so very attractive. But I've spent all my life trying to please men."

Influence

One man who has had a major influence on Joan's life was her strict and domineering showbusiness father Joe, who died last year.

According to Joan, he was detached, cold, hard, critical, difficult and everybody had to please him. She explained sadly: "I could never please him. I was always being told how proud Daddy was of me and Jackie. But the fact of the matter is that he was never able to tell us that we were lovely, clever, pretty, wonderful girls."

"Daddy would say, 'I never read Jackie's books. They're trash.' But they're not — we know that, they're fantastic."



Collins holds up her successful best-seller, 'Prime Time'.

After four marriages ended in heartbreak, Dynasty's Joan is cautious about taking yet another trip up the aisle. Meanwhile, she is enjoying her single-minded freedom 'with a man for all seasons.'



Joan with her young daughter, Katy Kass.

And back with a vengeance, too. For instead of pleasing men, she is going to spend the rest of her life pleasing herself.

Joan is enjoying her new-found freedom. She can go to bed at whatever time she wants, get up at whatever time she wants and talk to people on the telephone when she wants to.

She has also adopted a more carefree approach to her love-life. She explained: "For the first time in my life, I am completely free. I don't have to be anything I'm not. I can go where I live, and do what I like. It's great."

"In the past, I often felt smothered by relationships. I've found myself under such pressure to conform to what the man wanted me to do — the type of person he imagined that I was, or thought I should be. Everyone thinks I'm so strong. But I'm not...or rather I wasn't."

So these days Joan does not build her life around one man. Instead, the increasingly realistic but always romantic Joan lets them come running.

Interesting

One well-publicised affair was with "Bungalow" Bill Wiggins. She revealed: "We are still friends, that's all. He was terribly good for me — so outgoing. He loved people and parties."

"But if I'm with a bloke, I'm with a bloke. And he'd better be with me. If he goes chasing every bit of skirt around, he gets the elbow. I don't like that."

Still, there is no shortage of would-be escorts waiting in line. And Joan is more than happy to glitter on the social scene with a different man in tow. This does not mean she is leaping into bed with someone different every night. But she is not going to lead the life of a nun either.

Joan said: "I have an interesting life with men friends, but no specific man in my life."



Joan, at 19, with husband No. 1 Max Reed (left) and with husband No. 2 Anthony Newley (right).

"I have a man for all seasons, a man for all diversions. The thing is, I don't need a man now. I just like to have one."

Although Joan has not been successful in marriage and is not keen to take the plunge for the fifth time, her image of her ideal partner is crystal clear. She explained: "I have to be with someone who is secure and energetic. I do want fidelity, loyalty, honesty and honour."

"I want a man who has his own life, own job, is proud of it and makes a good living. And obviously he has to be good-looking. I do not like a man who takes drugs or who abuses me mentally or physically."

There seems to be no-one special in Joan's life at the moment. But, perhaps, there never will be. Is it because she is so successful that she always seems to end up with the wrong man?

Joan answered: "I do think men have tremendous difficulty with a woman who is much more successful than they are. A lot of men are unable to deal with that. They have to be top dog."

"It's a problem. It's really a question of the man and what he is able to cope with. I think it's a balance in the personal life that they have at home."

Joan is no stranger to the scenario of her being the mega-star with her husband hovering in the background. She explained: "I have been divorced four times and, in each particular case, I was faced with life patterns I could not cope with. Infidelity, drug taking, physical violence and belittling."

"In one case, there was also indifference, which I can't bear. I'd rather be looked over than overlooked. But men often become complacent, and that's a great enemy. It's terribly sad. It's just the nature of men."

But Joan was quick to stress that she is not a man-hater. She will admit that she has not been lucky in love but, as she said: "I simply love men."

He would have to be superman, though, to fit in with her near-supersonic pace of life. Joan juggled working long hours on Dynasty, commuting between her Beverly Hills man-

sion, in Los Angeles, and her London apartment and raising her two daughters and one son — Tara, 22, Katy, 16, and Sacha, 23 — with apparent ease.

She even found time to launch a perfume, design a new fashion range, and write her first novel, Prime Time, which soared to number three in the fiction best-sellers list.

And that's not all. Joan is now working on another novel all about Twenties and Thirties Hollywood stars. So how does she fit it all in? Joan said: "High energy quotient, I suppose. I admit I am hard to keep up with."

"I also like challenges, which is why I wrote Prime Time. I know I'm not an intellectual literary giant, but it was written as an entertaining read."

But Joan did confess that she is tiring of her jet-setting life-style and plans to quit Dynasty. "But it will be said to say goodbye to Alexis — it's such a juicy role," she said.

Joan would also like to put the brakes on her hectic life to devote more time to her children, who live in Britain. She said: "I constantly tell them how wonderful they are, how beautiful they are, how clever they are, how brilliant. They really are fabulous and very, very clever."

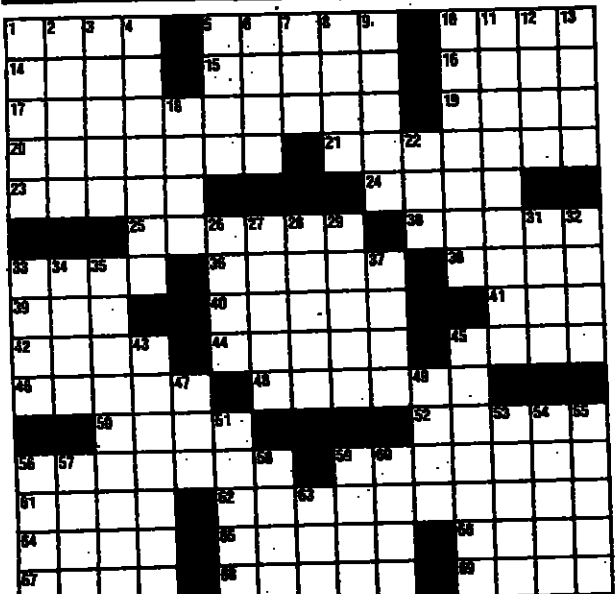
But does she... she, whose life has been played out against the glittering world of money, sex and power, think she may be getting a little too old to change direction? "No, definitely not. There are a lot of plays that would be right for someone of my age. I'm not afraid of growing old. I hope to live to be a very old lady and be pushed out to the stage in a wheelchair if necessary!"

"I know everyone sits and waits for my tits to drop and my eyes to get bags and my body to swell. Well, it's not going to happen."

"I hope to keep myself looking reasonably attractive as long as I can. But to be afraid of ageing is to be afraid of life."

But Joan revealed that, when writing her fiery sex-and-tell novel, Prime Time, she was far from her usual chic glamorous self. She said: "I gave up cleaning my teeth, brushing my hair and eating properly."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Knocks
 - 5 Kon Tiki et al.
 - 10 October birthstone
 - 14 Thanks —!
 - 15 Dostoyevski novel, with "The"
 - 16 Nevada resort
 - 17 Greenbacks
 - 19 — girl
 - 20 Influence deeply
 - 21 Biased
 - 23 Group's senior member
 - 24 Nervous
 - 25 Aquatic mammals
 - 30 Ornamental style
 - 33 Weakens
 - 36 Pseudonym
 - 38 Wise one
 - 39 A Babe
 - 40 Ravioli
 - 41 Madrid Mrs.
 - 42 Worker's pay
 - 44 Purlin
 - 45 Shanty
 - 46 Stormy petrels, e.g.
 - 48 Actor Borgnine
 - 50 Tall story
 - 52 Squander
 - 56 Taxi drivers
 - 59 Acted coquettishly
 - 61 Certain exam
 - 62 Very little money
 - 64 Colliery
 - 65 Part of China
 - 67 Literary lioness
 - 67 Treas
 - 68 Barbecue necessities
 - 69 Hunter's prey
- DOWN**
- 1 Speedy
 - 2 Texas shine

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

GEASE PSALM CID
ALLEZ ASSAI ONE
DISTRACTION NFL
TALK NOSTRA
ARIL IRMA ARRAY
GENES AMMONIAC
ATTRACTION CTA
PRESTO EASTIS
EAR DETRACTION
CANBERRA KRONA
STCYR GATE INSP
KITCAT TRAC
JOIT SUBTRACTION
MNO INDIA ELATE
PSN LIAYUP SYMOD

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A ♠AKQJ73 ♦874 ♣AK8
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A.—We are sure that there'll be votes for a direct cue-bid of two spades, a takeout double or a jump to four hearts. Our choice is none of the above—we would bid three no trump! With any lead other than a diamond, we should be able to claim nine tricks; and even if the opponents find a diamond lead, there's no guarantee that they can take five tricks.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J6 ♠KJ5 ♦AKQ107 ♣AQ4
Your right-hand opponent opens three hearts. What action do you take?

A.—You can't double because you don't have spades and you might not come close to 11 tricks at diamonds. We'd gamble on three no trump—the odds are pretty good that partner will have the cards we need to collect nine tricks, as well as the half-stopper in spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q107 ♠A6 ♦K95 ♣AQ765
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1♣ 2♦ 2♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—This is no time for dragging your feet. You have a good hand, stoppers in all suits and a sure source of tricks; since partner almost surely has a six-card diamond suit and you have a key filler. Bid three no trump.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AQ74 ♠6 ♦KJ952 ♣873
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1♥ 2♣ 2♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Since partner almost surely has four spades on this auction, we would opt for four spades. However, if you feel the urgent need to check on whether partner does, indeed, have four spades, we would accept a cue-bid of two hearts.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K1076 ♠5 ♦KJ6 ♣98652
The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
3NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—In standard methods, partner is showing a balanced hand of about 21 points. With your 7 points, you should be content to try for nine tricks in no trump rather than 11 at clubs, despite your five-card club support and singleton heart. Pass.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠954 ♠7 ♦AK9872 ♣A63
The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1♣ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—You know your side has at least an eight-card spade fit, and you have a very fine hand for partner—three prime cards, three trumps and a singleton. Three diamonds is a terrible bid—it shows a sub-minimum two-over-one response. If you bid anything other than four spades, you need to haul out that book on bidding theory.

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will be able to do something you enjoy doing. But routine matters must not be neglected. You should take some interest in what greatly interests your partner. Do not spend so much that you are worried about it. Be cordial.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Nothing will seem to go quite right today. Never mind. If you concentrate all will be well in the end. Do show just a little more goodwill towards others. Be tactful.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You will be tempted to spend more than you can afford, but must not do so. Make sure you do not do anything that might annoy your partner. Do not pay too much attention to hearsay. Be amenable.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Something you have been learning will show its utility to you. Do not use force to try to achieve something where persuasion has failed. Face up to the facts instead of trying to evade them. Be more patient.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
You will find a new and sensible way of doing something you have been doing clumsily. You should try not to become involved in a quarrel between two of your friends. Have more faith in yourself. Be sincere.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
You will know how to deal with a practical problem. You will find a shortcoming in one of your projects but you will be able to remedy it. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be truthful.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
You will get some help from an unexpected quarter and should show your gratitude. This is no time to take anything for granted. You should try to take your mind off work today. Be polite.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
You must be on the close lookout for mistakes, both yours and those made by others. You should not always try to have the last word. You must take special care not to betray a confidence. Be generous.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
You will be able to spend the day in pleasant company. You should do your best to avoid spending more than you can readily afford. Make sure you do not leave any letters unanswered. Be moderate.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
A tendency to make an end out of a means to an end must be resisted. You will have something to be pleased about but nothing to gloat upon. Just now too others will not do what you hope they will. Be consistent.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
You must remember that gadgets wear out and not use them to excess. You will be able to do something to impress others that your intentions are good. Take the best possible care of your health. Be reliable.

Cory, workers deadlocked on wages

Nation-wide strike threat

By Joel Palacios

PRESIDENT Corason Aquino has failed to break the deadlock in the three-cornered battle over the minimum wage among the government, employers and workers.

But she won time to temporarily sidestep a threat from militant trade unions to mount a nation-wide work stoppage if their demand for a P30 across-the-board increase in the minimum wage is not met.

She refused to accept Labour's demand for a P30 increase in the daily minimum wage and called on union leaders to refrain from protests for the good of the nation.

In two separate meetings yesterday, Aquino asked contending parties to make further studies on the issue and urged them to consider the points raised by each side.

"We need each other," she said. "We have to help the poor. That should be our priority. We can always settle our differences and if we again take up what you might call battle positions, we will go back to the situation in 1986." Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno quoted Aquino as saying during a two-hour meeting with trade union leaders.

"What is important for us is to make

sure the wage increase will not result in inflation that will negate the progress we made in 1988," Aquino said.

Aquino invited the labour leaders to Malacanang following a controversy over the proposed increase in the minimum wage which now stands at P64 for industrial workers and P54 for agricultural workers.

The Labour Department has proposed a sliding rate of P15 on wages in Metro Manila and P6 on salaries in the provinces, which officials said was reasonable because it would keep inflation within manageable levels.

But the two largest trade unions in the country — the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and the militant Labour Advisory Consultative Council — rejected the proposal and said they would launch a nation-wide strike if their demands were not met.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines, which represents the major companies in the country, has warned against what they called unrealistic increase.

It said many firms may shut down because it could not afford a P30 increase, adding that the government should not

intervene in the determination of the minimum wage which could be thrashed out in the collective bargaining agreement.

ECOP officials held a separate meeting with Aquino later in the day to present their side on the issue before the President makes a recommendation to Congress to pass appropriate legislation on the wage increase.

During the meeting with the labour leaders, the National Economic and Development Authority presented statistics to support government claims that a wage increase ranging from P20 to P30 would have serious consequences for the poor because it will drive the prices of basic commodities beyond their reach.

"If the minimum wage is increased by P30 and if everybody complies with it then the price of commodities will increase by 20-27 per cent," NEDA head of Solita Monsod said.

"This means that the purchasing power of the income of the poorest will decline by the same extent in as much they do not benefit from increased wages," Monsod said.

Labour leaders, however, went to the meeting with black ribbons pinned on their chests "to mourn government's failure to

act on their demands." They said they would stand pat on their position.

TUCP president Democrito Mendoza said: "We appreciate her (Aquino) sincerity. She's trying to work out some amicable compromise. But as of now the formula given to us by NEDA and the Department of Labour is not satisfactory."

"We will go back to our constituencies and discuss this matter," TUCP vice-president Andres Dinglasan said. "The President wants to meet us again. I just don't know when."

Headed: "We certainly hope that there can be an amicable settlement and the employers will also listen to our side. We do not believe that every time we ask for a wage increase their companies will close shop, there is no empirical evidence to that effect."

Labour Secretary Franklin Drilon said ECOP officials have also called an emergency meeting tonight to discuss the President's appeal.

"They have called an emergency meeting to take another look at their position and see if they can expect to consider an increase in wages," Drilon said.



Vergel: darling of the press



Best child performer Along Radillas delivers his acceptance speech as Lito Lapid and Alice Dixson look on.

Jacklyn Jose and Ace Vergel surprise winners

A night of unexpected victories at star awards

AFTER the Catholic Mass Media Awards and the Film Academy of the Philippines, it was the Philippine Movie Press Club's turn to hand out awards in the Fifth Star Awards for Movies last week at the Ultra.

For the first time in the history of Philippine cinema, the PMPC gave a fitting, long-deserved tribute to moviedom's least-recognized "heroes": The stuntmen.

No less than action king Fernando Poe Jr. was present to hand out the first "Stuntman of the Year" award which turned out to be a tie between Ronald Acinas and Reynaldo de Castro.

It was a night of unexpected victories as non-favourite nominees emerged as winners.

The best bet for the best actress plum were Amy Austria (Bubbles) and Vilma Santos (Bulong Mo Sa Diyos), but Jacklyn Jose (Itanong Mo Sa Buwan) proved to be the dark horse.

On the other hand, Christopher de Leon (Kapag Nagagad ang Puso) and Philip Salvador (Boy Negro) were the early favourites in the best actor derby, but Ace Vergel (Anak ng Cabron) ran away with the trophy.

In the best supporting actor category, Joel Torre (Magkano ang Iyong Dangal?) and Miguel Rodriguez (Bulong) were being eyed as the potential winner, but bold star-turned-serious actor Ernie Garcia (Bukas Sikat Din Ang Araw), outsmarted them.

For the best director, it was a tie between Chito Russo (Itanong Mo Sa Buwan) and Carlos Siguan (Missa Mo, Misa Ko) — also among those who were least-favoured to win in their category.

Despite audience support for child wonder Aiza Seguerra, who was nominated as best child performer in her first solo starrer, Wake Up Little Susie, the actual winner was Atong Redillas for Ex-Army.

Two citations which are given only by the PMPC are the New



Aquino and Santos: cited as Stars of the Night

Movie Actor and Actress of the Year. These recognitions went to bagged star Smokey Manaloto (Itanong) and Lara Melissa de Leon (Bukas Sikat Din).

Another special award given only at the PMPC is one for the "Unsung Artists," courtesy of the Norma Aunor Foundation.

This year's honoree was veteran actress Mona Lisa, who has been in the film industry for more than 50 years now. The actress was first introduced as Floridelis, in the 1937 movie, Ang Pagbabalik ng Corregidor. Succeeding films which brought her recognition included Maria Capra and Isang.

Probably the much-awaited moment was the announcement of the "Star of the Night," something which stars have been known to prepare for by going to the most popular fashion designers.

But another unexpected proclamation happened when two lucky ladies — Vilma Santos and "star-truck" presidential daughter Kris Aquino — were chosen as Stars of the Night.

Dressed in an elegant black dress, Vilma was thoughtful enough to thank the judges for choosing her as one of the winners. Kris, on the other hand, was too excited to say anything except, "I would like to thank Aureo Alonzo for my gown with glittering trimmings. As to how the two celebrities split the P10,000 cash award and plaque, no one knows.

Other winners were: Supporting Actress — Caridad Sanchez (Kapag Nagagad: Movie of the Year — Itanong Mo Sa Buwan (Double M Production); Movie Theme Song — Natutulog Pa ang Diyos by Dionisio Buenacaminio Jr. and Jose Bartolome; Production Design — Don Escudero (Hawaga); Film Editing — Abelardo Hulleza (Itanong); Cinematography — Manolo Abaya (Missa); Sound — Joe Climaco (Itanong); Musical Score — Willie Cruz (Nagbabagang Luha); Adapted Screenplay — Orlando Nades and Gina Marissa Tagasa (Natutulog); and Original Screenplay — Ricky Lee (Sandakot na Bala).

Special awards were likewise given such as: Producer of the Year — Seiko Films; Darling of the Press — Beverly Vergel; and Newsmaker of the Year — The Sharon Cuneta-Gabby Concepcion-Grace Tijana love triangle.

Of the three, it was the third award that created quite a stir, because whoever his right mind would accept an award for "scandal."

Gabby was seen at the Ultra before the ceremony started. But someone probably whispered to the actor that "they" were going to be put on the spot, so he hurriedly left. His publicist, Lolit Solis, was the one who accepted the award in the absence of Sharon, Gabby and Grace.

50,000 homeless tots in Manila

Street urchins increasing

THREE out of every 100 Filipino children in urban areas live on the streets.

A recent study by social welfare agencies also said these street-children eke out a living as vendors, scavengers, hawkers, and prostitutes.

They are forced to take to the streets, the study said, for five reasons: The need to earn, separation from parents, the death of one or both parents, neglect and maltreatment.

The study was conducted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), United Nations International Children's Educational Fund (UNICEF) and the National Council of Social Development Foundation (NCSDF).

It attributed the increase in the number of street urchins to widespread poverty in the urban centres in the 80s.

A profile of a typical street urchin, as drawn by the study, shows the following:

- He comes from a large, low-income family;
- His parents obtained only elementary education;
- He has either dropped out of elementary school or not attended school at all; and
- His parents are probably separated from each other or living in with partners who often maltreat him.

The study also showed there are more male than female streetchildren.

It said this is probably because the boys, like their

adult counterparts, take on the role as breadwinner and have less work at home than girls.

Culture, it added, also dictates that the female child be protected more than the male.

In 10 cities covered by the survey, streetchildren were found to make up 3 per cent of the total child population.

Metro Manila, which has more than three million children and youth, has 50,000 to 75,000 streetchildren.

The study showed that in Iloilo, 2,500 to 3,000 of its child population of 102,687 are streetchildren; Olongapo, with 97,674 child population has 2,406; Baguio, with 63,066, has 800 to 1,500.

Similar proportions were noted in the cities of Bacolod, Zamboanga, Cebu, Davao and Naga.

These developments are some of the topics to be taken up in the first Regional Conference on Streetchildren in Asia slated from May 8 to 13.

The conference, sponsored by CHILDOPE, an international non-governmental organisation assisting streetchildren, is expected to gather 80 delegates from other countries and 45 social workers from the Philippines.

Other sponsors include the UNICEF, the DSWD and the NCSDF.

Teresita Silva, NCSDF president and CHILDOPE vice-chairman, said they plan to come up with a regional network and a three-year regional programme for streetchildren in Asia.

Vice-president without a job

WASHINGTON, (AP)— Salvador Laurel, the Philippine vice-president at odds with Corason Aquino, described himself as being in "a state of suspended animation" as he prepares a bid for his nation's top office.

Laurel met with reporters at the National Press Club during a private visit to Washington designed to meet with congressional leaders and highlight his views in advance of next month's national convention of the opposition Nacionalista Party.

The vice-president has said he expects to be one of several candidates who are going to "throw their hat in the ring" for the 1992 presidential elections. Although Aquino has said she will not seek re-election, it is possible that she may be drafted.

Relations are so poor between Aquino and her vice-president that they do not speak.

Although Laurel stated that his visit was not geared around directing criticism at Aquino the majority of his statements found fault with her government's battle against the nation's 20-year-old communist insurgency, as well as its approach to economic and political development.

Laurel has no duties under the constitution unless appointed to a position by the president. After a political falling out in 1987, Laurel resigned his post as foreign minister and lately has been organizing an opposition party.

"I'm in a state of suspended animation," he said at one point.

He said he considered resigning the vice-presidency, but decided it was better to devote himself to forming a political opposition.

Laurel said his lack of responsibilities has given him a chance to view the problems in the Philippines in a different light.

Student wins crown

Miss Philippines '89

ELIZABETH Berroja (R and below, center) was proclaimed as the Philippine National Red Cross' Miss Philippines '89 during crowning ceremonies at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday night. The other winners were: Alundra Untong, 3rd runner-up; Loreline Gonia, 2nd runner-up; Msa. Arisu Kawachi, Miss Red Cross; and Isabel Valte, 1st runner-up.

Berroja is a student of the Poveda Learning Centre and was an early favourite, aside from being one of the top thirty Red Cross fundraisers among the 58 candidates.



'Ambassador of goodwill' contest

Search for super tots

THE Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait will hold a special family-centered project during its search for The Little Mr and Ms Ambassador of Goodwill.

There will be two categories of contestants — the 3 to 6 age group and the 7 to 9 age group. Contestants should be of Filipino descent, male or female and residing in Kuwait.

Winners will be judged in the different areas: poise, talent, articulateness, the child's response to a large gathering and the total personality.

Valuable prizes are at stake and the afternoon pageant promises to be a real crowd attraction as parents are eager to have their children participate in this endeavour.

The Filipino community in Kuwait has grown tremendously over the years and as many members of the community have opted to start their families here in generous Kuwait, their children have likewise been recipients of their parents' industriousness and positive attitudes towards work.

Application forms are now available from any FLASSIK officer. For particulars, contact Chary Nepomuceno at Tel. No. 5634509, Rose Formantes Tel. 812348 or 4843601, Mariou Tadana. Tel. 4881358 or the chairperson for the pageant, FLASSIK director Araceli Cayaba Tel. No. 3940600 ext 4117.

Pageant date is scheduled on Thursday 18 May 1989.

PAL's new fares for new planes

PHILIPPINE Airlines is asking for a new fare rate to charge on new jets replacing older ones and not for a fare increase on current planes.

A PAL spokesman made a clarification of statements given by airline officials in a House hearing Tuesday.

PAL executive vice-president Leslie Espino told the sub-committee on air transportation that PAL would petition the Civil Aeronautics Board for the new fare to be applied to the brand-new Boeing 737-300 jets that the airline is leasing.

The new fare will be charged on the B737s starting in August when the first two airplanes are expected to go into service.

Each B737 will replace a BAC One Eleven jet in PAL's fleet. Current fares on the One Elevens will continue to be charged on these airplanes until they are phased out.

It will not be until September 1990 that all 10 B737s are scheduled to be on hand.

The new fare intended for the B737s will be 40 per cent higher on the average than now charged on the One Elevens.

Espino told the House hearing that PAL has embarked on the lease of the B737s to further modernize its fleet and enhance the airline's contribution to national economic recovery.

Fee hike for schools

BAGUIO CITY: Private schools are planning to increase their tuition fees by as much as 20 per cent for the coming school year as they set a May 15 deadline for the government to come up with guidelines on financial assistance to private education.

This was announced yesterday by Reinaldo C. Bautista, chairman of the Co-ordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), in a press conference at the Baguio Country Club.

COCOPEA is the umbrella organisation of five major groups of colleges and universities — the Association of Christian Schools and Colleges (ACSC), Catholic Educational

Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU), Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAPSCU) and Philippine Association of Private Technical Institutions (PAPTI).

Bautista, also president of PACU, said if the planned tuition increase pushes through, 60 per cent of the hike will go to the salaries of 117,194 teachers in private schools and universities.

However, any increase shall be based on the annual inflation rate which, the National Economic and Development Authority said, is expected to reach 7.1 per cent until 1990, Bautista added.

Honasan capture try fails

ANOTHER attempt to capture renegade former Lt Col Gregorio Honasan failed anew when units of the Northern Police District (NPD) and the military swooped down on the residence of Honasan's brother in Quezon City.

However, the raiders team recovered high-powered guns and hundreds of ammunition from the house of Romeo Honasan Jr at Block 86, Lot CS-2, Lagro Subdivision, barangay Pasong Putik, Norvaliches, QC at about 6 pm last Wednesday.

Maj. Edgar Avendano, NPD chief investigator, said the raid in Lagro was staged by members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Honasan's brother and his wife, Carmen Sanchez, are both working abroad. The house was occupied by a certain Abdou Aliouane.

Seized from the house were a nine-millimeter Browning pistol, a grenade assault rifle, a Mini-Uzi machine pistol, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

KAPILKU's helping hand



KAPILKU members paid a visit to Amadeo Bigornia, a factory worker suffering from paralysis, and gave him KD90 towards buying a wheelchair. Picture shows Bigornia receiving the donation from KAPILKU president Manny Inserto. Also present are Macarimbang, Tadana and Campus.

Unity through sports theme

Palarong Pilipino kicks off May 12

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait) — KAPILKU will hold their 9th Palarong Pilipino on May 12 at Keifan Gym, Holiday Inn Hotel and 300 Club. This year's theme is Bisig ng Mangagawa and the main objective is Unity through Sports.

Miss Palaro '89 The traditional selection of Miss Palaro '89 for the Palarong Pilipino — Mini Olympics will be chosen from all the participating teams. Special prizes will be awarded for the first runner-up and second runner-up Miss Palaro. Ashraf & Co. Ltd (Kodak) will donate the valuable prizes for the winners.

Aside from the Miss Palaro contest, there will be a selection

of best uniform for both men's and Ladies divisions, largest participating company and best cheering squad.

Basketball

The basketball tournament is the most glamorous and exciting games in the Palaro and the number one sport of the Filipinos. There are twenty-three (23) teams and four teams for the men's and ladies categories respectively.

The 23 teams for men's division and the 4 ladies division are as follows:

Men's Teams
1. Alonzo, 2. Arabi Company, 3. Associated Construction Co. (ASCO), 4. Dolarco Exchange Ltd (Philippine Real Estate), 5. Engineering Engineering Inc., 6. Haddi Lajay — Alagabon Int'l (Philippines door to door service) 7. Kuwait Danish Dairy & Kuwait Hotels Co., 8. Kuwait Inter-

national Hotel, 10. Kuwait Pre-Fab Building Co. (KPPC), 11. Kuwait Registry Palace, 12. Lot 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Ladies Teams
At Chantel Air Freight, Durrant Exchange Co. Greek House, and United Lajay — Alagabon Int'l (Philippines door to door service).

Mythical Five The election of various awards for the basketball competition will be for Mythical Five, Most Valuable Player, rookie player, best referee and the most well-behaved team. Aside from the trophies the basketball team winners will also receive special prizes from Ashraf & Co. Ltd.

Raffle Contest During the intermission on the opening day of the Palaro, a raf-

Marcos' banker arrested

THE Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has announced the arrest (in the United States early this month) of a former Filipino banker reportedly commissioned by then President Ferdinand Marcos to withdraw \$380 million from Swiss banks in 1986.

The attempt to withdraw the huge deposit from several banks in Switzerland was aborted, however, the PCGG said.

In a press briefing, the PCGG identified the former banker as Michael de Guzman, former president of Credit Manila, now the Commercial Bank of Manila.

There will be an officers' meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Auditorium at 9:30 p.m. Topics to be discussed are, Palarong Pilipino (finalisation of all the games, rules and regulations, marshal, medical staff, programs and other relevant matters) and additional co-ordinators.

Vice-president for sports and recreation Freddie Fernando is the chairman of the Palaro and Willy Sabay, assistant vice-president for sports and recreation is the vice-chairman of the Palaro.

Hotel and restaurant operations class continues

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU) held the third session of their hotel and restaurant operations class on Friday at the Holiday Inn hotel, auditorium sponsored by Boodai Aviation — Cargo Division (Philis door to door service).

Participants were given a guided tour of the different departments of the hotel by Ahmed Diar Bakery, assistant front office manager of the hotel. They toured the front office and reception, laundry, engineering, kitchen rooms, recreation and other miscellaneous

sections of the Holiday Inn. Each section was discussed in detail by Bakery to the enlightenment of the participants.

A lively discussion was held after the tour where participants queried the set up and revenue projection of the hotel business.

Nehru centenary and Baisakhi celebrations

Discovering India to the sound of music

AN Indian doctor-cum-musician "discovered India" to the sound of music on Thursday and Friday at the Indian Arts Circle (IAC).

The changing mood of the songs was complemented by shifting scenes of India. More than 150 slides of rural and urban India were shown.

Dr Siva, a radiologist, presented the "Discovery of India" show to mark the Nehru Centenary and Baisakhi.

More than 90 musicians took part in the show, blending the essence of Eastern and Western classical music. "For the first time I tried to assimilate choral music with Indian classical sound," said Dr Siva.

Based on a belief that only 20 per cent people in any given audience appreciate purely classical music, Dr Siva composed a rhythm for mass consumption.

A lyricist, Dr Siva wrote patriotic songs combining almost all Indian regional languages. For children, he created a variation of the "Chanda Mama" lullaby.

Compositions "My aim was to present a symphony of classical and folk music," he said.

Some of the items presented included Freedom Hymn, based on lyrics by Martin Luther King. Dr Siva's com-



Dr Siva (centre) receives chief guest Sheikh Nasser.

positions were Kala Bharatham, Bharatiya Glory and others. He also composed music for all the items presented at the show.

The music of Ravi Shankar and Satish Bhatia was also performed.

More than 1,500 people attended the two shows on Thursday and Friday. Thursday's chief guest was Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah; Friday's chief guest was Farouk Abdul Aziz.



Young performers blending dance and music.

Judging will be fair and impartial

One-act play competition at Indian Arts Circle

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

AN Indian Arts Circle (IAC) spokesman has said that they will be fair and impartial in judging the winners of the One-Act Play competition, which starts on May 4.

A total of 12 groups will present one-act plays in seven languages: Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali and Tamil.

The IAC has selected a panel of seven judges. A spokesman said their names will be announced on the opening day of the competition.

"We don't want any of the competitors to know who the judges are; we want to be fair and impartial," said a spokesman. An Indian diplomat will chair the panel of judges.

IAC will give awards for the Best Play, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director and Best Stage Set.

The aim of the competition, which may become an annual feature of the IAC social programme, is to provide a common platform for various groups to exchange views.

The programme is as follows: May 4 (6.30 pm onwards): Three Malayalam plays — "Thazharyade Theagal" directed by N.V. Madhavan and Jwalanukhikal, directed by M.J. Isaac; and Phoenix, directed by Shivkumar — will be presented.

May 5 (6.30 pm onwards): Andu, Indu, Mandu (Kannada), directed by Tara K. Prasad; Ooshara Bhoomi (Malayalam), directed by Devdas Pappimisseri and Srihithi (Malayalam), directed by K.T. Varghese.

May 6 (6 pm onwards): Generation Gap (Tamil), directed by C.K.V. Ramani; Sadgati (Bengali), directed by Swapan Dasgupta; and Manaf Karjo Aa Natak To Thashej (Gujarati).

May 7 (6 pm onwards): Ya Ghar Aplech Aahe (Marathi), directed by Pramod Guwanekar; Parda Uthne Se Pahle (Hindi), directed by M.M. Joshi and Nazuk Sawari, directed by J.R. Dasandi.

PREVIEW A few groups contacted the Arab Times and talked about their production. One of them is the Kuwait Dramatic Society's entry Srishti (Creation), a Malayalam production.

The Kuwait Dramatic Society, formed in 1949, was one of the first Indian theatrical groups. Affiliated to the KOC, it has been actively involved in staging dramas and plays for the last 40 years. Although, some of the old members have been replaced by new ones, the society has not given up its activities.

Srishti is about a scientist who opens a "human sperm bank" and finds out that the results of his experiment are not what he expected them to be. The performers are V.N.S. Nair, Mohan T. George, Baby Varghese and D.R. Nair.

The Kuwait Kannada Koota has entered a satire called Andu Indu Mundu (Past, Present and Future) on marital (dis)harmony. The play, directed by Mrs Tara Prasad, was staged at the Koota's annual celebration last year.

The Kannada plays discuss the reversal of roles: if men stayed home and women went to work — and what could happen. In the play, the woman has a wonderful time playing the "head of the family."

The Maharashtra Mandal's entry is called "Ya Ghar Aplech Aahe", a social comedy about cramped living conditions in Bombay flats. It is about Appa, Malati and Bandu, who plan a trip to Khandala; just before departure, some unwelcome guests



The performers of Ya Ghar Aplech Aahe (L-R): Anjali Jawahiri, Anagha Karnik, Ranjana Khare and Shyam Gokhale.



(L-R): V.N.S. Nair, Mohan T. George, Baby Varghese, D.R. Nair rehearsing for Srishti, scripted by P.K. Satheesh.

invade their home. The rest of the play deals with how a Bombay family copes with unwanted guests. Bhai Gavankar who writes and

directs the play, also plays a crucial role. Other performers are Anagha Karnik, Shyam Gokhale, Jayant Bhagawat, Jayant Mohle, Ranjana Khare,

Anjali Jawahiri, Komal Shillikeri and Raju Gawade. The IAC One-Act Play competition has been sponsored by Essa Hussain Al Youssifi.

KTV 1

- 11.00 Holy Quran
- 11.30 Al Madrasa Al Mohammediya: religious programme
- 12.15 Cartoons
- 12.30 Cultural film
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World via Satellite
- 1.30 Toota Fi Elmarikh: cartoon serial
- 2.00 Qasadei Shabiya: historical serial
- 3.15 Ashrat Al Iman: religious programme
- 3.35 Haleb Wa Nar: Arabic serial
- 4.30 Ramadan competition
- 5.00 Ashwaqi Billa Hudoob: Arabic serial
- 6.30 Safinat Al Asdiqa: cartoon serial
- 7.00 Ba'ad Al Iftar: Hadith Dine
- 7.15 Al Tam'aen: local children serial
- 8.00 Cultural film
- 8.30 Diwanayat Shu'ara' Al Nabat
- 9.30 Ramadan competition
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.50 Khoth Wa Khal: local serial, starring Intesar Al Sharah, Dawood Hussain; written by Mubarak Al Hashabash
- 11.45 Assakum Min Iwadah: written and presented by Rasha Majdi
- 12.00 Al Thulathiya (Najib Mahfouz): daily Arabic serial
- 1.00 Arabic feature film: Asif Lil Ezaz, starring Salah Tho Elfoqar, Raghdha, Fayza Kamal, Mustafa Mit-

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

- wali
- 2.30 News summary
- 2.35 The World via Satellite
- 3.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizons
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Scientific Eye: Crimebusters. The role of witnesses and testimonial facts in crimes... New scientific methods adopted in convincing the jury for deciding their verdict.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 The Holy Traditions in which God Himself speaks to His Messenger
- 9.45 Murder, She Wrote: "Showdown" in Sashkatchewan" Dr "Shanger" dies of suffocation when fire broke out in his tent on a "rodeo" camp... A number of workers are suspected of causing the fire, where the author helps in tracing the criminal.
- 10.30 Nature Watch: "Dragonfly". There are 5000 species of those creatures which are distinguished by its beautiful colours... Their effect on the Japan-



A scene from the bestseller 'A Shadow on the Sun' KTV 2 at 11.30 pm today.

ese culture and history... 11.00 Perfect Strangers 11.30 Bestseller: "A Shadow on the Sun" Part II. Back in Africa, Beryl soon became involved with the dashing pilot Denys Finch Hatton. Beryl for years after she refused an affair with Jack Carberry challenged her to fly

the Atlantic in the hopes the journey would result in her death. However, Beryl landed safely in Newfoundland... 1.00 News in Brief 1.05 Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0600 Newswatch
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From Our Own Correspondent
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 Wavegood
- 0900 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 The Pleasure's Yours
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Nature Now
- 30 Financial Review
- 39 Book Choice
- 45 Short Story
- 1000 News Summary followed by Science in Action
- 30 In Praise of God
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Screenplay
- 0400 Newswatch
- 30 Sing Gospel
- 45 Worldbeat
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial Review
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 Letter from America

- 0600 Newswatch
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From Our Own Correspondent
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 Wavegood
- 0900 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 The Pleasure's Yours
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Nature Now
- 30 Financial Review
- 39 Book Choice
- 45 Short Story
- 1000 News Summary followed by Science in Action
- 30 In Praise of God
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Screenplay
- 0400 Newswatch
- 30 Sing Gospel
- 45 Worldbeat
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Financial Review
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 Letter from America

- and 9th Body and Soul: 16th A Pair of Spectacles: 23rd A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Russia — The Drive to Empire
- 45 Letter from America
- 1700 World News
- 09 Book Choice
- 15 In Praise of God (ex 2nd and 9th Jazz for the Asking)
- 45 Sports Roundup

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behtereen Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Ek Kinayal Ek Geet
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Geet Kahani
- 2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Omar Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St., Al Arafat building
Tala Pharmacy
Al Hilal St., opp. Education Ministry
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Bader Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis St., Mohammed Al Mslam bldg.
Salimya and Rumaitiya
Al Raed Pharmacy
Rumaitiya, Amman St., Jamal Abdullah bldg.
Fahad and Almadhi
Bastoor Pharmacy
Fahad, Al Dabbous St., Qays Al Ghanem bldg.
Jleeb Shoyoukh
Al Namran Pharmacy
Opp. to Jleeb Shoyoukh school
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Al Jahra Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Andalus
Frisco King
Salimya
Revolution
Hamra
Arabic Film
Drive-In
Arabic Film
Firdous
Balidaan (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra and Sri Devi
Fahad Open-air
Be Lagam
Al Fahad
A Time For Loving
Al Jahra
Amar Akbar Anthony
Granada
Sachai
Salaikhat
Heated Vengeance

Al Jleeb
Nasihat
Almadhi Drive-In
Crazy Jungle Adventure
PRAYERS
Fajr 3.41 am
Zuhr 11.45
Asr 3.21 pm
Maghreb 6.24
Isha 7.46
RAMADAN TIMINGS
Imsak 3.31
Ifar 6.24

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Africa: Textiles and Crafts
AFRICA: Textiles and Crafts, an exhibition from Nigeria, is at the Sultan Gallery, 8 pm to 11 pm, until May 2, Thumyan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St.
Tareq Rajab Museum
RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm. Collection of Islamic arts.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and

textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Piano Recital
MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zoli will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

THEATRE

Hindi play
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya Bharati presents Hindi play entitled 'Bin Baati Ke Deep' followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880963; 5623810; 3725627.

One-act play
MAY 4-7: Indian Arts Circle will hold One-Act Play Competition in IAC auditorium at Finatites. Twelve Indian Cultural groups shall take part. Three Malayalam plays will be staged on 4th, two Malayalam plays and one Kannada play on 5th, one Tamil, one Bengali and one Gujarati play on 6th, one Marathi and two Hindi plays on 7th. Programme will start at

6.30 pm on May 4 and 5 and at 6.00 pm on 6-7. Awards will be presented on May 25, 1989 at 7.00 pm with a musical show and dinner. For entry passes please contact P.C. George on 4896000 ext. 3643 or 4739359.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair
MAY 6: Weekend Club will host their third social event at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the Summer Queen. Guest compères are Adeeb Shuaiber and Simeon Kazi. Music is provided by Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers.

Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson — 3918905 (office hours); Val — 5614506 after 2 pm.

Danish Coffee Morning
MAY 14: Daniella invites all Danish ladies for coffee morning at the Dana Restaurant, May 14, 9.30 am. For reservations call Ingrid — 3713670;

Marianne — 3720182 ext 29.
Konkani drama
MAY 18-19: Indian Arts Circle, Finatites. MAR Productions presents Konkani drama "Noshibacho Divo Paloulo", directed by Prem Kumar. Gate passes available at Raja Stores. Tel. 2412970.

Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Messilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebith" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

Summer Bazaar
MAY 19: 2.00 pm St Pauls Ahmadi grand summer bazaar at British Embassy compound sale of handicrafts, home cooking and object d'art. Free entry.

Arabian Nights
MAY 19th: 'Arabian Nights' evening at the Jawhara Night-club, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle-Eastern of past or present. 20 costume prizes. Tel.: 4847461, 2418017, 4846843 ext. 4515, or leave message on 2614201.

HOTELS

At the SAS
BISTRETTO: Italian res-

taurant offers diverse Italian dishes as well as international and local specialities. Open from iftar till 2 am.

Peacock Room: A gathering place for people with discerning taste. Come and relish the wide variety of genuine Chinese cuisine. Opens from iftar till 12.00 midnight.

Al Boom: A different speciality offer at Al Boom every two days in addition to traditional menu of charcoal grills. Open from iftar until midnight.

At Holiday Inn
COFFEE Shop: Delicious iftar buffet at KD5.500 per pax inclusive of juice.

Babylon and Lobby cafe: a variety of Arabic sweets and fresh fruits with jellab juice. Trio Dimension providing music upto 10.00 pm.

screen.

SPORTS

Keep fit classes
MONDAYS (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill at the Holiday Inn.

Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Toufi Pakasalo.

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome... Pls contact the recreation manager tel. No. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

Raft Race '89
MAY 2: 8.30 pm. The third captains' meeting of the Kuwait Third Annual Raft Race will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. All captains are kindly requested to attend. Newcomers are also welcomed.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

COMPUTER COURSES AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

1. Introduction to IBM-PC's and DOS. (Arabic & English).
2. English Word Processing And Office Management using WordStar 2000 plus, FormTool and SideKick packages.
3. Data Management using dBase III plus and LOTUS 123 spreadsheet.
4. Programming with BASIC Language.
5. Engineering and Graphics Design using AutoCAD.

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During Ramadan: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
After Ramadan: 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
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Seats will be reserved on first come first serve basis
Courses start May 20th

Lectures (6:00 - 8:30) p.m., twice a week.

For information call: 4843280 4842683 4839352 4839835 4839836

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El-Khwarizmi Program

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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Wanted

KUWAIT City, in or around, gentleman requires a room with a Pakistani/Indian family. Tel. Mr. Saleem, 2441063, 9 am - 1 pm.
(AT2-47110-2)

SALMIYA, near the Indian School, accommodation required for two bachelors to share with tel. facilities. Tel. 4835004, 1 - 3.30 pm.
(AT6-47094-3)

Available

RIGGAE (Shuwaikh). One room, semi-furnished for one Indian bachelor or working lady. Tel. 4894756, after 2 pm.
(AT6-47088-3)

NUGRA, Khaldoun Street, one furnished independent room with AC and tel. facilities for one or two bachelors with an Indian family. Rent KD80. Tel. Mr. Oberoi, Res. 2644645, Off. 4740801.
(AT6-47088-3)

SALWA, one room in a villa with bathroom, kitchen and tel. facilities for an American or West European. Tel. 5631452.
(AT2-47119-2)

KUWAIT City, Sharq near the Amiri Hospital. Accommodation in a 2 bedroom flat, furnished for a small family, to share with an Indian bachelor. Tel. 2421546, after 2.30 pm.
(AT2-47113-3)

SALMIYA, opp. Junior Indian School, next to Woodlands restaurant. Accommodation available for an Indian working lady with kitchen and tel. facilities. Tel. 5619754, 6 - 9 am or after 8 pm.
(AT2-47122-3)

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- Polos Curry
- Cashew Curry
- and
- Kiri Treacle (Honey)
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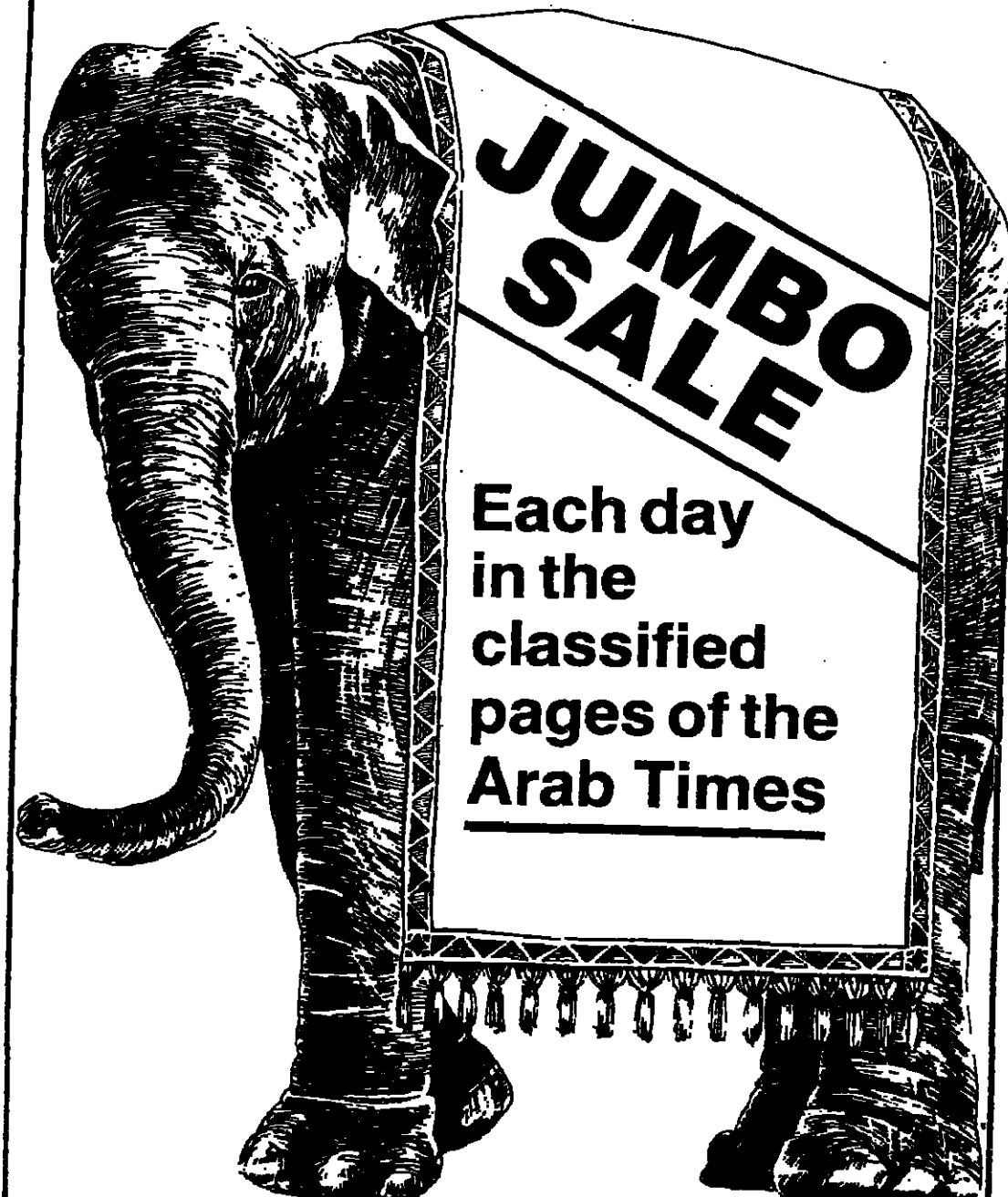
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SPORTS

Pistons open playoffs with easy victory

NEW YORK, April 29, (AP) — Joe Dumars scored 12 of his 25 points and John Salley blocked five shots as the Detroit Pistons held the Boston Celtics to a record-tying 10 points in the second quarter en route to a 101-91 victory last night in the opener of their first-round playoff series.

The Pistons outscored Boston 21-10 in the second period — tying a playoff record set April 25, 1982, at Seattle when the SuperSonics held Houston to 10 points.

Michael Jordan scored 31 points and Scottie Pippen shook off shoulder problems to score 13 in the decisive third quarter as the Chicago Bulls beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 95-88 in their playoff opener.

The victory was the Bulls' first this season over the Cavaliers, who won all six regular-season meetings. It also swung homecourt advantage to Chicago for the five-game series, with two games remaining in each city.

Derrick McKey and Xavier McDaniel each made two free throws in the final 20 seconds as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated Houston 111-107 in the opening game of their first-round playoff series. Game 2 of their best-of-5 series will be in Seattle tomorrow. The series moves back to Houston for game 3 and, if necessary, game 4.

Smiley helps Pirates edge tough Giants

NEW YORK, April 29, (AP) — John Smiley carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and settled for a four-hitter and his first shutout of the season as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the San Francisco Giants 1-0 last night.

The only run of the game was scored when San Francisco's Rick Reuschel, 3-2, walked Glenn Wilson, with the bases loaded in the sixth as the Pirates ended a three-game losing streak. Reuschel is 0-6 in his last nine starts against his former teammates.

Will Clark broke up the no-hit bid with his first career hit against Smiley, ending an 8-for-15 streak against the left-hander. Clark led off the seventh with a single to center, but was erased on a double play.

Results			
American League			
New York	3	Chicago	1
Cleveland	9	Minnesota	7
Kansas City	8	Milwaukee	0
California	9	Toronto	0
Seattle	11	Baltimore	5
Oakland	2	Detroit	1
Boston	6	Texas	6
National League			
Chicago	3	San Diego	1
Pittsburgh	1	San Francisco	0
Montreal	10	Atlanta	4
Cincinnati	3	Philadelphia	0
New York	7	Houston	3
St. Louis	6	Los Angeles	3

Evert and Sloane advance to Houston semifinals

HOUSTON, April 29, (Reuters) — Top-seeded Chris Evert moved one step closer to a fourth consecutive Houston women's tennis title with a 7-6 6-3 win yesterday over seventh-seeded Gretchen Magers in the quarterfinals.

Fifth-seeded Susan Sloane beat fourth seed Lori McNeil 6-2 6-4 in their all-American quarterfinal to advance to the semifinals against Evert.

Unseeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia

stopped Andrea Temesvari of Hungary 6-2 7-5 in her quarterfinal and will face unseeded Carrie Cunningham, who eliminated Kim Kessaris 6-1 6-2 in another all-American quarterfinal.

Evert, ranked fourth in the world, had difficulty with Magers' variety of shots in the first set, as the American challenger refused to let Evert find her rhythm from the baseline.

After the two traded service breaks twice in the first set to force a tiebreak, Evert raced to a 6-1 lead by patiently outtrailing Magers before winning the tiebreak 7-3 on a net approach.

Evert broke the frustrated Magers twice to take a 4-1 lead in the second set and was never threatened.

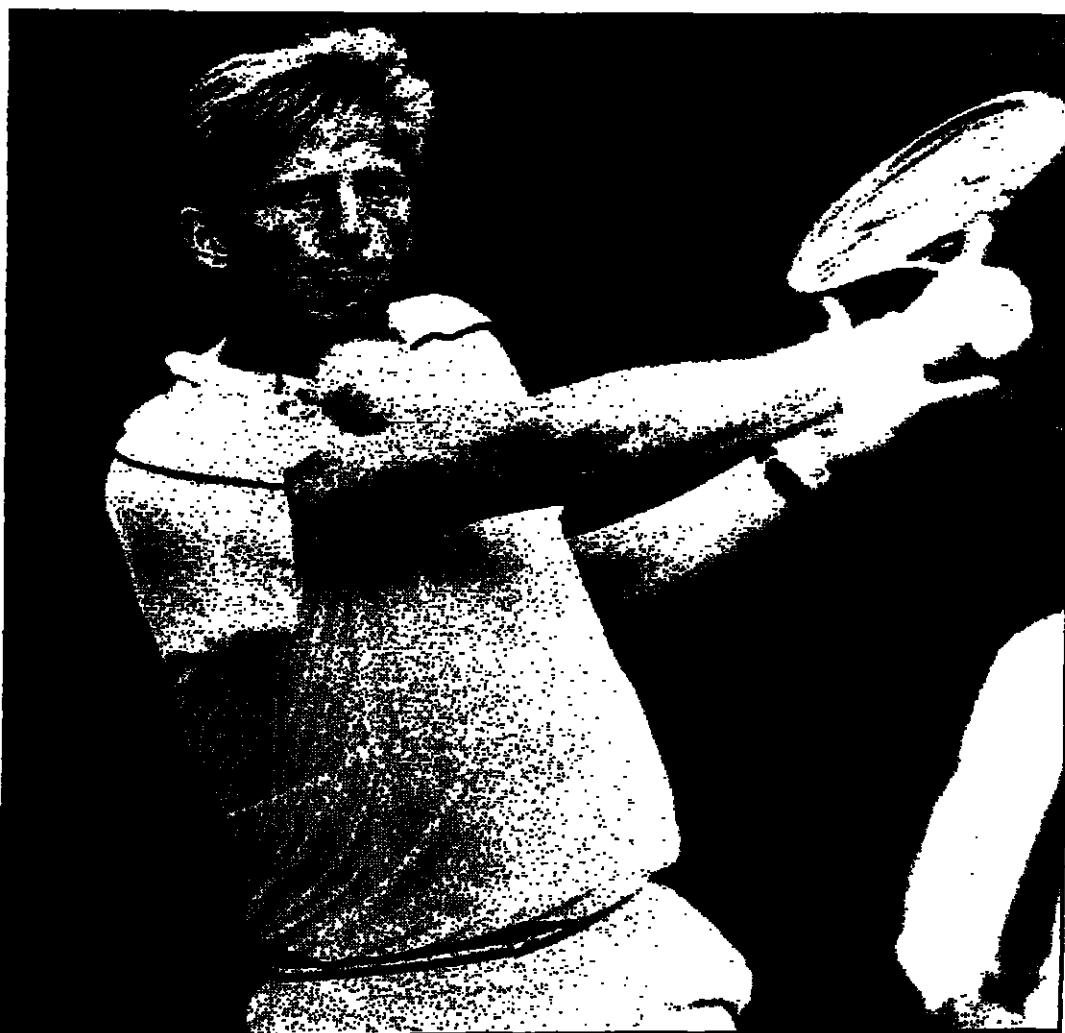
The last time Evert played Magers in November she had to save a match point

before prevailing. "She doesn't let you get a rhythm. She hits an array of shots — serve-and-volley, slice and topspin. I played up and down and I wasn't thrilled with the way I played," said Evert.

Sloane won the first four games of her match in just 14 minutes and took advantage of volleying errors from McNeil throughout the match.

Becker crushes Perez-Roldan

Wilander struggles to edge Agenor



Becker: looked at home on clay, not his favourite playing surface

MONTE CARLO, April 29, (Reuters) — Boris Becker was in dazzling form as he swept into the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday but top seed Mats Wilander had to toil against his own lack of confidence and concentration.

The West German has never looked so at home on clay as he did in a breathtaking 6-3 6-3 demolition of Argentine baseliner Guillermo Perez-Roldan.

"I don't think I can play much better than I did today," Becker said. "He's one of the best clay court players in the world so I'm very happy."

Wilander, by contrast, looked much less at ease on his favourite surface and confessed to lack of confidence after a laboured 6-3, 7-6 win over Ronald Agenor of Haiti.

The Swede, reaching his first Grand Prix semifinal in almost seven months of erratic form, said: "I can't just switch on my confidence because of what I've done in the past."

Wilander has the chance in the semifinals to avenge one of his worst defeats this year. He meets the player who upset him in Key Biscayne last month, Argentine teenager Alberto Mancini, who had an impressive 6-3 6-3 win over West German Carl-Uwe Steeb.

Becker faces Austrian Horst Skoff, who overcame Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 6-4 6-4.

Five years ago Becker won the Monte Carlo junior tournament and that remains his last clay

court title. But the conventional wisdom that Becker's big-hitting game is no suited to clay will have to be hastily reviewed now that he has learned to be more patient and not attack on every shot.

From 4-3 in the first set, Becker won seven games in a row in a superb demonstration of tennis skills. He let Perez-Roldan off the hook slightly by wasting a match point at 5-1 before dropping his service for the only time in the match.

"I cannot stay back all the time but I cannot come in to the net all the time either," he said. "I have to find a mix, use my service as much as I can and be patient when the other guy's serving."

"I think I've found the balance now. I've never felt so confident on clay. Before I wasn't so fit and I knew I had to win in two hours or my game would fall apart."

"Now I can stay longer and I know it. Mentally, I've changed."

Wilander has, too, since winning three of the four Grand Slam titles last year — but for the worse.

"Mentally, I'm not 100 per cent. But I'm getting there. Today I had set points against me and I won them," he said.

"The problem with confidence is that I can't go for shots that are risky. I have to be careful."

He fell 3-1 behind in each set against Agenor before marshalling his concentration and had three set points against him before winning the match 8-6 in the tiebreak.

Noah overcomes Gomez

Lendl and Agassi reach semifinals

ROSWELL, Georgia, April 29, (UPI) — Yannick Noah, playing with an injured Achilles tendon, took advantage of the erratic play of Andres Gomez to record a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory yesterday and join Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl in the semifinals of the \$280,000 AT and T Challenge.

In other matches, Agassi blasted Aaron Krickstein, 6-0, 6-3, and Lendl outlasted Brad Gilbert, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, to complete the round robin portion of the exhibition tournament undefeated in three matches.

Lendl will face the winner of a match later yesterday between Michael Chang and Tim Mayotte.

Lendl struggled against Gilbert, committing dozen of unfor-

ced errors on his ground strokes. He squandered a 5-2 lead in the final set before closing out the match by punching a high, forehand volley into the open court.

"Let's face it. It's not the most important match of my career," said Lendl, who was assured a spot in the semifinals, regardless of the match's outcome.

"It's a bit hard to get motivated, but I don't like losing. It doesn't matter if it's a practice match or not."

Noah, who said his injured Achilles tendon will not prevent him from playing American No. 1 Agassi in the semifinals this evening, broke Gomez' serve twice in the final set to win the one-hour, 42-minute clay court battle.

"It's always difficult to play good against him," said Noah, who missed half the 1988 season with nagging injuries. "He's so unpredictable."

Noah served 11 aces and survived brilliant shot making from Gomez in the second set to claim the victory. A missed backhand volley from the baseline by Gomez carried Noah to match point, and Gomez ended the match with his fourth double fault.

Agassi, who celebrates his 19th birthday today, said his only disappointment in yesterday's one-hour match came when Krickstein, trailing 4-1 in the second set, won two games in a row before Agassi closed out the match.

Pohl takes 2-stroke lead

LAS VEGAS, April 29, (Reuters) — Dan Pohl broke out of a logjam with a brilliant eight-under-par 64 on the demanding Spanish Trail Country Club course to take a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the Las Vegas Invitational yesterday.

Pohl's 64 put gave him a 199 total in this 90-hole tournament played over three different courses with amateur playing partners joining the professionals for the first four rounds.

Tied for second place at 201 were Masters runnerup Scott Hoch, after a 68, former Masters champion Craig Stadler, who fired a 65, and two-time winner Robert Wrenn, who shot 66.

Steve Pate, Bill Glasson and Jim Carter were another stroke back at 202.

Pohl, winless since 1986, started the day in shaky fashion by bogeying his first hole.

"I started the day a little tough but from that point, I really played flawless golf," said Pohl. "The putts I hadn't been making started falling."

"It's anybody's game with two rounds to play but I like my chances," Pohl said. "I wish there was just one round, not two, because you'll have to shoot some pretty low numbers to keep people going past you."

Tom Purtzer, who shared the second-round lead with Glasson, dropped back to eight shots off the pace after soaring to a 75.

Par continued to take a beating as the winds, notorious in the Las Vegas area, failed to stir. The cut for the final 36 holes was set at five-under par. Among those failing to qualify for the last two days was last year's champion, Gary Koch, who finished at three-over 219.

Ballesteros hits back with best round of day

Carrigill takes Spanish Open lead

VALENCIA, Spain, April 29, (Reuters) — Seve Ballesteros made amends for dropping five shots over the last three holes of his first round by shooting the best round of the day in the Spanish Open yesterday.

Ballesteros, seeking a Spanish double after winning the Madrid Open on Sunday, tamed the strong winds blowing off the Mediterranean with a four-under-par 68.

That took the Spaniard to

eighth equal on 143, four shots adrift of surprise halfway leader Paul Carrigill of Britain.

Carrigill, whose only victory was in the 1987 Zambian Open, had five birdies, including three twos, to edge one ahead of Northern Ireland's David Feherty, who also had five birdies in a 70.

Three more Britons share third place on 141. They were overnight leader Derrick Cooper, who followed a 66 with a 75 after taking six at a short hole

Scottish Open champion Barry Lane, who had a 69, and Richard Fish (70).

West German Bernhard Langer, Spanish champion at El Saler in 1984 after a record 62, shot 72 to stay two under on 142 with Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal, whose 72 included a double bogey seven at the 15th.

On a day when workers at the government-owned hotel on the course went on strike for more pay and noisily picketed behind

the first green, two players — Ireland's Des Smyth and Scot Ken Brown — failed to turn up for their rounds.

Smyth retired with a bad back, but Brown, who returned from the US Tour last week, gave no explanation and could face a PGA fine.

European Order of Merit leader Mark James of Britain, who shot 78 for a 151 total, was among those who missed the cut on 150.

Five-way tie for top spot

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 29, (Reuters) — Five players, including Nancy Lopez and Patty Sheehan, took advantage of sunny and warm conditions yesterday to post six-under-par 66s to share the first-round lead in the Hermitage Golf Classic.

Missie Bertocci was the first of the leading Americans to come in with a 66. She was joined atop the leaderboard by Colleen Walker, Lopez, Cindy Figg-Currier and Sheehan.

Betsy King, winner of last week's tournament in Florida, and her fellow-American Beth Daniel were one shot back at 67.

Liselotte Neumann of Sweden and Americans Alice Ritzman and Kathy Postlewait were among six players at 68.

Lopez credited her success off the tee, while Walker enjoyed the greens during their opening round tour in the 54-hole event.

"The key to my round today was hitting my driver so well," Lopez said. "I was hitting right down the middle, which enabled me to hit my irons in close on the greens."

Walker said: "The greens were in such good condition this morning that the putting was smooth."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Krishnan wins

TOYOTA, Japan, April 29. (AP): Top-seeded Ramesh Krishnan of India and second-seed Jonathan Canter of the United States will meet tomorrow in the final of the Dunlop Masters tennis tournament. Krishnan trounced Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-1, 6-3, while Canter defeated Andrew Castle of Britain 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Missing parts

MARANELLO, Italy, April 29. (AP): An investigation into the cause of Gerhard Berger's crash at last Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix is being hindered by souvenir hunters who took parts away from the wrecked Ferrari, a spokesman for the racing team said yesterday.

Mark Breland

NEW YORK, April 29. (Reuters): World Boxing Association welterweight champion Mark Breland underwent surgery on his left knee yesterday to repair damage suffered in his successful title defence earlier this month, his promoters said.

Snooker semifinal

SHEFFIELD, England, April 29. (Reuters): Stephen Hendry battled back from 10-2 down to end the third session of his World Snooker Championship semifinal against Steve Davis 13-9 in arrears yesterday.

Kenyan athlete

PHILADELPHIA, April 29. (Reuters): Olympic 1,500 metres champion Peter Rono of Kenya said yesterday that he would most likely skip this summer's top athletics meeting, the IAAF World Cup.

Yacht race

ROVINI, Yugoslavia, April 29. (Reuters): American skipper Paul Cayard won the fourth World Match Racing Yachting Championship event of this season by beating reigning world champion Chris Dickson of New Zealand yesterday.

McCallister leads

TOKYO, April 29. (Reuters): American Blaine McCallister upstaged overnight leaders Greg Norman of Australia and Japan's Koichi Suzuki with a brilliant five-under-par 65 in the third round of the 100 million yen (\$75,000) Nagoya Invitational golf tournament today.

Soccer fans

LIVERPOOL, England, April 29. (Reuters): Weeping children cast 95 wreaths into Liverpool's River Mersey yesterday to commemorate the soccer fans from the city who died in Britain's worst sporting disaster.

Charity match

BERLIN, April 29. (AP): Liverpool has turned down an offer from West Berlin authorities for a charity soccer match to raise money for the relatives of the 95 victims of the Sheffield disaster, officials said yesterday.

Cycle race

BEJAR, Spain, April 29. (AP): Belgian Eddy Planckaert won the fifth leg of the 44th Tour of Spain cycling race yesterday, and Roland Leclercq of France kept the yellow jersey of overall leader.

Time ripe to break Bobby Fischer's record, says Kasparov

GRAZ, Austria, April 29. (AP): World chess champion Gary Kasparov promised today he will break Bobby Fischer's record this year and said doping in chess is possible but he has never used it.

Speaking at a news conference in Graz, where he was slated to play a tournament against 30 more junior players, Kasparov appeared to suggest that his rival and ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov used drugs to enhance his chess performance in the past.

Asked whether doping was possible in chess, the 26-year-old title holder said, "brain doping is different from physical doping. It may be possible at the end of a tournament because (doping) only lasts

for short periods but you would pay for it later."

"I have never used it and I'm not a specialist," he said.

"The time is ripe for me to break the record of Bobby Fischer and I'm determined to do it by the end of this year," Kasparov told reporters.

At the peak of glory in 1972, when he won the world title in Reykjavik from Boris Spasski of the Soviet Union, Fischer had managed to amass 2,780 Elo points, calibrating his results in various tournaments. Kasparov, who is younger than Fischer at that time, is currently trailing behind narrowly.

Kasparov also expressed doubts about

the success of Moscow's policy of economic restructuring, or perestroika.

"There are no results economically," the Soviet grandmaster said. "But I'm optimistic because there is no alternative."

"Perestroika is the only way for the country (to improve the economic situation) but we're wasting time. We have already lost a couple of years."

Kasparov advocated more far-reaching reforms to end Soviet economic stagnation.

"You have to give real economic freedom to people, at least economical. If you don't give political freedom,

"The old system is not replaced and

what they give with one hand they take away with new (economic) restrictions," Kasparov said in apparent reference to laws restricting the role of private co-operatives and imposing taxes.

Kasparov, who has frequently demanded more democracy in Soviet and world chess organisations, planned to leave today from Brussels for talks between his Grandmaster Association and the World Chess Federation.

Kasparov reportedly wants a strong organisation for professional chess players and less power for the current FIDE president Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines, whom he described yesterday as a "chess crook."

Sidhu slams W. Indies for ton

India score 226 for four on opening day

KINGSTON, April 29. (Reuters): Navjot Sidhu hit a fighting 116 before retiring hurt and led India to 226 for four wickets on the opening day of the fourth and final cricket Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park yesterday.

Sidhu, who scored 286 against Jamaica last weekend on the same ground, did not offer a chance in his 355-minute stay until Malcolm Marshall, armed with the new ball, struck the opener on the right hand and forced him off the field.

Bad light brought an early end to play 30 minutes later.

No other batsman got past 25 although Sanjay Manjrekar, with an unbeaten 24, played a crucial part in partnering Sidhu in a fifth wicket stand of 77 in 29 overs.

Manjrekar came in just before tea at 142 for 4 and stayed two and a half hours until the close. He and Sidhu benefited from facing 15 overs of harmless spin from Vivian Richards, who had put India into bat, and Keith Arthurton, who between them conceded 62 runs when the ball was old.

The West Indies took the new ball at the earliest opportunity after 75 overs but were unable to shift nightwatchman Kiran More who survived five overs after Sidhu retired.

India lost only one wicket before lunch. But after enjoying the better of the morning session they lost the initiative in the afternoon thanks to a superb 9-over

spell by Ian Bishop and the dismissal of Mohammed Azharuddin just before tea.

Off Bishop's bowling, Richards held on to a sharp chance at the second attempt to dismiss Ravi Shastri, who had defended grimly for 48 minutes while scoring five.

Indian captain Dilip Vengsarkar was beaten three times in one over by the impressive Bishop and was lucky to survive for just over an hour. He finally got an edge to one of Bishop's leg-cutters to give Jeffrey Dujon his 200th catch in Tests as a wicket-keeper.

Azharuddin was dropped by Des Haynes off Bishop when on eight. But after some typically wistful flicks for four in his 25 Azharuddin misjudged the length of a ball from Walsh and ballooned a catch to Richards.

Arun Lal had been first to go in the 14th over, Marshall's second, when he was controversially given out caught at first slip by Richards.

Umpire David Archer thought a rising delivery had brushed the glove but Lal, who made seven in 71 minutes, indicated on his way back that the ball had come off his forearm.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings
N. Sidhu retired hurt 116
Arun Lal c Richards b Marshall 7
R. Shastri c Richards b Bishop 5
D. Vengsarkar c Dujon b Bishop 12
Azharuddin c Richards b Walsh 25
S. Manjrekar not out 24



Sidhu turns a ball from Walsh to the boundary.

K. More not out 3
Extras (b-1 lb-7 w-1 nb-25) 34
Total (four wickets) 226
Fall of wickets: 1-35-2-64 3-97 4-142
To bat: Kapil Dev, A. Ayub, C.

Sharma, M. Venkataramana.
Bowling to date: Ambrose 11-1-32-0, Bishop 19-8-31-2, Walsh 19-6-37-1, Marshall 19-4-56-1, Richards 9-1-36-0, Arthurton 6-0-26-0.

WEST INDIES: G. Greenidge, D. Haynes, R. Richardson, V. Richards, K. Arthurton, G. Logie, J. Dujon, M. Marshall, C. Ambrose, I. Bishop, C. Walsh.

Dilley makes Warwickshire struggle

LONDON, April 29. (Reuters): England pace bowler Graham Dilley followed his five-wicket haul against Nottinghamshire in the opening county championship match of the season with a spell of four for 17 yesterday.

Dilley revived Worcestershire after the county champions had been shot out for 143 by Warwickshire on the second day of their championship match at Edgbaston.

Dilley teamed up with Neal Radford to put Warwickshire on the slide at 31 for six before they recovered to 80 for seven by the close.

A damp, green wicket gave persistent movement off the

seam and Tim Munton (four for 39) exploited it best for Warwickshire. His victims included Graeme Hick, who made seven, and Ian Botham (5).

Essex's England all-rounder Derek Pringle also turned in a fine spell of seam bowling to help shoot out Middlesex for 129 at Chelmsford. He claimed five for 42 in 22.2 overs.

The only partnership of note was between former England skipper Mike Gatting, top scorer with 26, and Mark Ramprakash, who put on 47 for the third wicket.

Essex's reply of 138 for five was built around a third-wicket stand of 102 in 28 overs between

England opener Graham Gooch, who made 65, and Australian Mark Waugh (39).

Sri Lankan-born Gehan Mendis continued his fine start to the season with a stylish 118 in front of Ted Dexter, chairman of the England selectors, at Old Trafford for Lancashire reached 300 for six against Nottinghamshire, and Rob Bailey, one of the young England batsmen blooded against West Indies last summer, scored a patient 100 to take Northamptonshire into a strong position against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

They were 324 for four in reply to Gloucester's first innings total of 265.

Scores
At Taunton: Gloucestershire 118 in 70.2 overs (G. Rose four for 12, V. Marks five for 38), Somerset 85 for one in 35 overs (J. Hardy 40 not out).
At Chelmsford: Middlesex 129 in 65.5 overs (D. Pringle five for 42), Essex 138 for five in 41 overs (G. Gooch 65).
At Hove: Kent 234 in 83.4 overs, Sussex 332 for eight (D. Smith 68, T. Pigott 51 not out, I. Gould 49).
At Bristol: Gloucestershire 265 in 85.3 overs, Northamptonshire 324 for four (R. Bailey 100, G. Cook 76, D. Cappel 45 not out, D. Wild 43 not out).
At Old Trafford: Lancashire 300 for six declared in 92.1 overs (G. Mendis 118, M. Watkinson 61 not out, T. Jesty 44), Nottinghamshire 106 for one in 44 overs (T. Robinson 66 not out).
At the Oval: Hampshire 198 in 69.3 overs (P. Terry 63, K. Medcalf three for 24), Surrey 32 for four in 20 overs.
At Edgbaston: Worcestershire 143 in 53.3 overs (T. Munton four for 39), Warwickshire 80 for seven in 33 overs.

England cruise into team finals

HELSINKI, April 29. (Reuters): England's men and women cruised into their respective finals of the European Team Squash Championships with emphatic wins yesterday.

The top-seeded men beat hosts Finland 5-0 in the semifinal and meet second seeds Sweden for the championship.

The women beat Sweden 3-0 and play second seeds Ireland.

No player on either England team has yet lost a match in this tournament.

However, Del Harris, ranked ninth in the world, had a shaky start against Finland's Pentti Pekkanen, losing his first game 10-8 before recovering to win the next three.

H2O look set to win Wednesday League

H2O's 5-1, 2-0 defeat of Noddies in the KBRC Wednesday Party League, has put them in sight of this season's title. With another 140 by Erik Christensen, responded in kind by Stuart McDougall. H2O now require 2 points from their remaining 2 fixtures to be sure of first place.

Nearest challengers Soweto Slingers were held to an enthralling draw by third placed Has Beans, who have belied their name in the second half of the season, and are undefeated in their last 15 matches.

The singles games featured a splendid battle between Nobby Burton and Doug Francis, both players hitting 140, before the latter squeezed in his winning double with his opponent poised for victory. At 2-2 after the singles, both MM games were close affairs right down to the bulls. Ian Thomas in the first leg, and then Nobby Burton in the second, decided their games by hitting the required 3 bulls in 3 darts each. In the ladies match, Avengers regained some form to win 2-0, despite a 138 from Pam Sanderson.

Bulls hitters closed up in 4th place by beating Shower of Tossers 4-2, but must rely on Has Beans dropping points to sneak 3rd. John Watson became the first player to hit 2180's this year as he led his team to 3 points. BH ladies finally relinquished any hopes of 2nd losing 0-2 to Lady Tossers, and must now win 2 out of their remaining 4 games to hold onto 3rd.

At the other end of the table Fintas Flyers shocked Shipwrecks to win 4-2 and are now within 1 point of overtaking Dinar Soarers who lost 2-4 to Chuckers. Brian Statham led the Flyers on their way with a 140, a score matched by music loving Mike Somerford. Flies lost only their second game, 0-2 to Chuckers, who move off the foot of the table for the first time, thanks to Fintas Floosies 2-0 defeat.

A high scoring match for Entente Cordiale against Rondels, with 5-1, 1-2 results. Nick Harvey hit 2140's, but was upstaged by Paul Richard's 180 score. Peter Rogan remained cool however, to beat him 2-1 despite his maximum score.

In the final official week of the KBRC Monday League, Tanker Co. secured second place beating Mishraf 5-1, 2-0. Cunning Linguists can still pip Straight As A Dai, 6-0 winners at Bandits, if they beat Exiles in a postponed fixture, having this week beaten champions Bega 4-2.

Erik Christensen kept his 100 per cent. Monday record beating Bader Radi 2-1, despite Bader's 112 finish. Exiles finished off Ragamuffins 5-1, and now face Cottar House to decide who will get 5th place.

CH ladies won their League 2nd, with a 2-0 walk over against Ragabags, and Queens were relieved to hear of Dai-A-Straights 2-0 loss, so that they are now ensured 3rd on game difference from the Dai's and Tanker Co. ladies.

Lawson may score first win of season at Spanish GP

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain, April 29. (Reuters): Three times world champion Eddie Lawson, hungry for success after switching teams from Yamaha to Honda, could notch his first win of the season in tomorrow's 500cc Spanish Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The American won here last year in the relocated Portuguese Grand Prix, revelling in the twisting 4.22-km circuit, where he holds the lap record of one minute 49.29 seconds.

And he will be without some of his stiffest opposition. Two top Australian riders, 1987 world champion Wayne Gardner and Kevin Magee, equal third in the 1989 standings, are out with broken legs sustained in the chaotic US Grand Prix earlier this month.

But Lawson still has to contend with fellow American Wayne Rainey, runaway winner in the US race where the defending champion came a distant third.

Yamaha rider Rainey leads the world standings after three races with 54 points to Lawson's 41. Both will remember their visit to the 16-curve circuit here last year, when Lawson roared past Rainey with two laps to go.

In the 250cc race, home-crowd support should boost world champion Sito Pons on a Honda as he tries to stretch his five-point lead in the 1989 championship.



Lawson (No. 1): hungry for success



British lawyer Sir Harry Livermore sits pensively outside the Brussels courthouse after hearing the verdict. (Reuters wirephoto)

Heysel verdict shocks Liverpool

Victims' relatives feel let down

LIVERPOOL, England, April 29. (Reuters): Liverpool, still reeling from the deaths of 95 fans in a soccer stadium crush two weeks ago, reacted with dismay yesterday to the jail sentences imposed on 14 supporters over the 1985 Heysel disaster.

Relatives of the Heysel defendants protested their innocence and denounced the three-year partly-suspended sentences meted out in a Brussels court as too harsh.

"This isn't justice. This isn't fair. Why should we have to put up with this?" asked Gillian Evans, whose 25-year-old husband was found guilty of manslaughter in the riot which killed 39 people at the Brussels stadium.

Sentences were announced in Brussels on the day a public inquiry began into the Hillsborough tragedy in which 95 Liverpool supporters were crushed to death on April 15 in a packed stadium at Sheffield, northern England.

"Fate has played a very funny trick in bringing those two together," said Rogan Taylor, head of the Liverpool-based Football Supporters Association. "My feeling is that the people who've been through the last four years, if they were guilty, have suffered enough," he added.

Most British political reaction was sympathetic to the Belgian court's verdict, but Liverpool Member of Parliament Eddie Loyden questioned the fairness of the trial.

"I am shocked by this," he said. "There were all sorts of disadvantages of being tried in Belgium, language problems, proper representation and a strange environment. I am sure it is a possibility that innocent people have been found guilty."

Liverpool soccer club chairman John Smith said: "The Heysel trial has gone on too long. I would hope that we have now seen the end of that appalling disaster. I hope we can now get back to normality in all respects."

In Turin, the Juventus chairman said yesterday he understood the bitterness of relatives of the Heysel victims following the Brussels trial verdict, but it was hard to bring collective madness to justice.

"Justice has run its course," Giampiero Boniperti told reporters after learning of the three-year, partly suspended sentences handed down to British fans, "but I understand the bitterness of the victim's relatives."

"No sentence could ever compensate them or restore to them the loved ones who died because of an absurd collective insanity which can certainly not be blamed merely on 14 supporters."

And in Brussels, relatives of the Italian victims of the Heysel tragedy told reporters of the Italian news agency ANSA the verdict had been a great let-down for them.

Otello Lorentini, spokesman for the organization families of the Brussels victims, told ANSA: "We wanted a exemplary sentence. We didn't get one and we are disappointed, very disappointed."

Lorentini, father of Roberto, 30, who died in the Heysel riot, said he was particularly angry at the failure to condemn the European Football Union UEFA for its negligence as organizer of the European Cup final. "As regards the lightness of the sentence, what should I say? This is not the problem."

Marilena Fabbro, whose husband Lino was also killed in Brussels said: "Nobody wanted revenge, but this sentence is a letdown — we have not had justice."

In Turin, Domenico Chioppo, spokesman for one of the main organizations of Juventus fans said the real culprits of the Heysel tragedy had not been brought to book.

"There has been insufficient evidence to be able to incriminate those really responsible ... the investigation was too superficial," Chioppo said.

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